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RAW™

FOR THE MATURE FAN!

MARCH/APRIL 1997

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WELCOME TO THE 21ST CENTURY
The Chilling Rebirth of The Undertaker

Page 22

Goldust and Marlena

A Love Story For The Ages

ALSO: STEVE AUSTIN–STONE COLD OR SUICIDE MACHINE ■ SHOTGUN SATURDAY NIGHT EXPLODES! ■ SUPERFLY JIMMY SNUKA–THE LAST SPLASH ■ SHAWN/BRET–WHEN WORDS GET IN THE WAY ■ JOSE HOSPITALIZED! ■ YO, ADRIAN ■ NIGHT THE TITLE CHANGED HANDS ■ HONKY SHAKES, RATTLES AND ROLLS THE DRAGON ■ FANTASY WARFARE: THE FUNK VS. THE WILDMAN!

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WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION®

WF RAW
March/April 1997 ▪ Volume 2 ▪ Number 2

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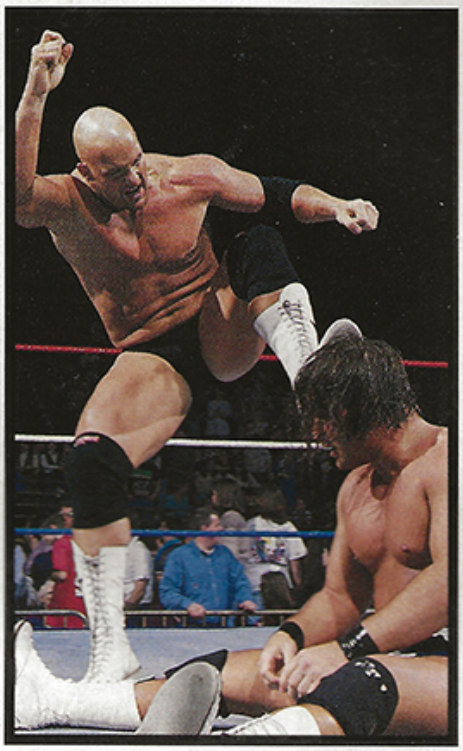

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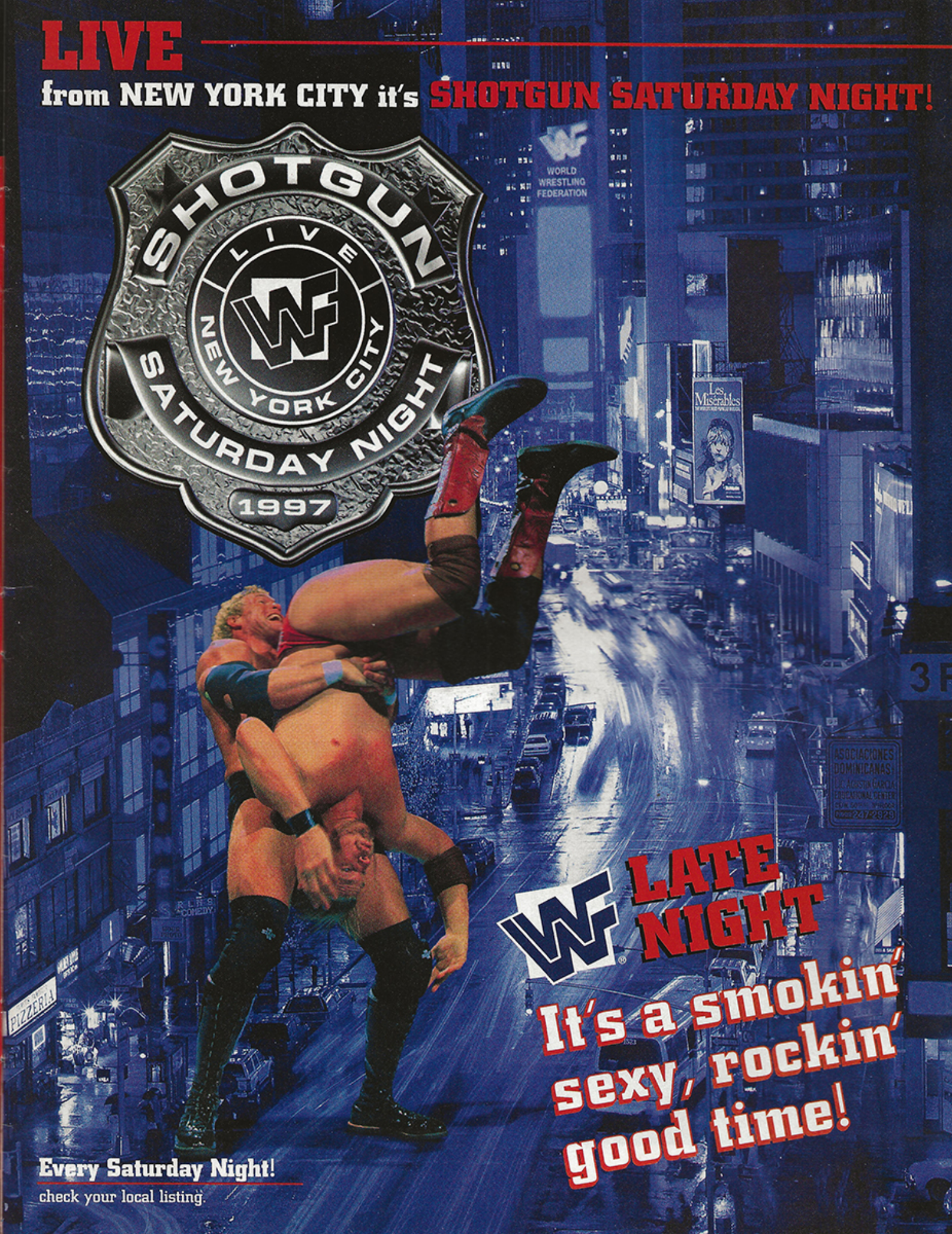
LIVE

from NEW YORK CITY it's SHOTGUN SATURDAY NIGHT!



Every Saturday Night!

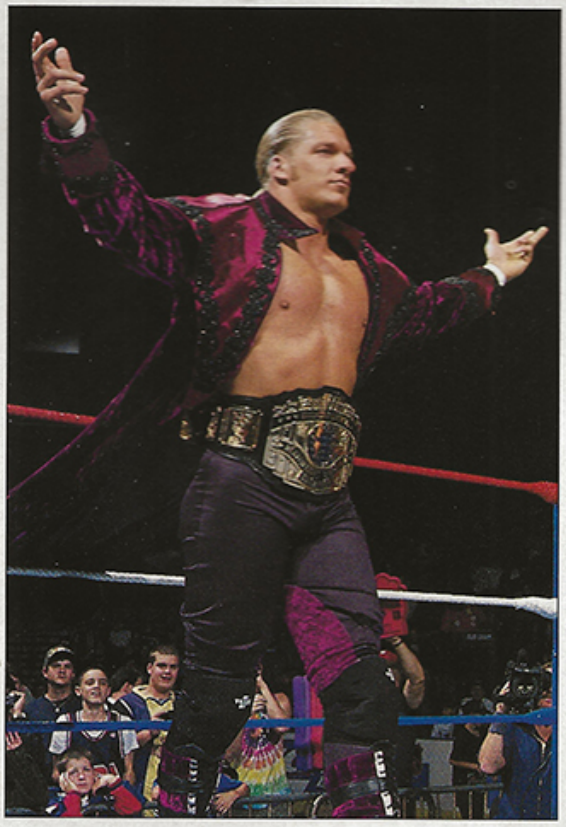
check your local listing.

Dedicated To Doing The Deed!

And Speaking of The Mexicans...

The invasion has only just begun! If you think you've been impressed by the AAA Mexican superstars thus far in the World Wrestling Federation... well, just hold on to your masks, kids!!!

That's right, whereas Mil Mascaras, the Latin Lover, Pierroth and Cibernetico wowed you at the *Royal Rumble*... you ain't seen nothin' yet! As I sit here pecking away at my faithful IBM (the only way to go), there are more troops on the way! A few names to keep an eye on that will be debuting in the World Wrestling Federation at press time include: Mexican legends Perro Aguayo and El Canek, high-flyer Venum, the near-suicidal Histeria and Vic Venom's personal favorite, the sensation known as Hector Garza!



Wanted!!!

He used and abused half of the Miss America Beauty Pageant. He flawed and humiliated the once Mr. Perfect. He's cut up, put down and ridiculed just about everybody and anybody who's ever agreed (for a healthy sum, of course) to stand by his side. So, where does he go from here, you ask? Well, perhaps there is only ONE place to go... NEXT VICTIM, PLEASE!!! You got it right, rumors are circulating around the rings of the World Wrestling Federation that Hunter Hearst-Helmsley may be in the midst of a worldwide search to fill his newly posted position of... BODYGUARD!

"Whether that rumor is indeed true or not is none of your business," snipped Mr. Helmsley to one of my informants. "Yes, it's true that I'm a little disgusted with cowards jumping me from behind, but what I plan on doing about it is my business—NOT YOURS!"

Well, Mr. Helmsley, although EVEN YOU are entitled to your privacy, I get paid to get the scoop, and in my OPINION... I think I have it! Yes, I believe Mr. Helmsley is looking for protection, and yes, I even believe that he may have already found his... PERSON.

Take that for what it's worth!

You Wanted It You Got It!!!

For years, you the fans have been asking for it and finally this month... YOU'RE GOING TO GET IT!!!

If you don't already know by now, a tournament is going to be held in Germany this month to crown a World Wrestling Federation European Champion! That's right, a long-awaited fourth World Wrestling Federation Title is about to be born!!! Superstars from all around the world are scheduled to compete in this tournament, with the winner bringing the belt back to the United States to defend its honor!

Raw Magazine will exclusively cover the tournament, and you'll be able to read all about it in the May/June issue!!!

(Above) Has the Nation of Domination opened an unexpected can of whoop-ass by trying to push Stone Cold's buttons? Due to a recent locker room brawl, Austin 3:16 says Crush may be next on his hit list!

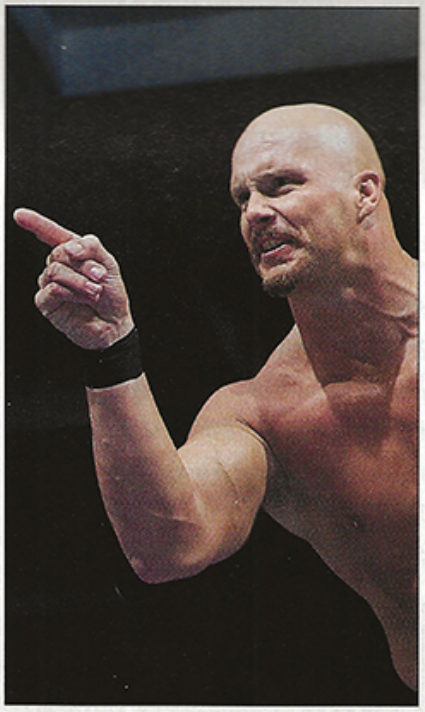
Mommy–Part II?

Remember the bizarre Mankind-Goldust-Sable "MOMMY" incident from a few months back? You know, the one where Goldust convinced Mankind that the leggy Sable was his mommy. Well, whereas it indeed turned out to be yet another mind game concocted by the masterful movie man, one source recently told me that Mankind... may still believe it!!!

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

That same source went on to also inform me, the Informer, that as you read this, Paul Bearer may be brewing a devious plan to deliver... MOMMY BACK TO HER SON!!!

Stay tuned to this one—same BATTY time, same BATTY channel!!!



Stone Cold vs. The Nation?

What you'll read about later in this magazine, I'll confirm now... Stone Cold Steve Austin may indeed be a suicide machine headed down the highway of destruction.

Recently, behind the scenes of *Monday Night RAW*, Austin got into a verbal shouting match with none other than Crush. Well, one thing led to another and before the two went their merry ways... THEY WENT AT IT!!! Man, would that have been one to SEE on the program, rather than just to read about here!!! Anyway, the two were finally separated with no serious injuries—HOWEVER—Stone Cold's parting words to Crush: "You want me, you know where to find me, Big Man!!! AND BE SURE TO BRING THAT DAMN NATION OF DOMINATION WITH YOU!!! THE MORE ASS I CAN WHIP AT ONE TIME... THE HAPPIER I AM!"

For Austin's sake—I hope Nation of Domination doesn't take him up on it!!!

Letters to the Editor:

Go North Young Tag Teams!

EMail

Dear Editor,

For years I've been a fan of the World Wrestling Federation, especially the tag team division. I remember such great teams as Demolition, the Powers of Pain, the British Bulldogs and the Killer Bees throughout the history of the Federation. However, I have an idea which I think would increase the number of tag teams that could flock to the Federation. Why not establish an Intercontinental Tag Team Title? It would be a great chance for the younger tag teams to gain the knowledge and experience needed to qualify them for the big one—the World Wrestling Federation Tag Team Title!

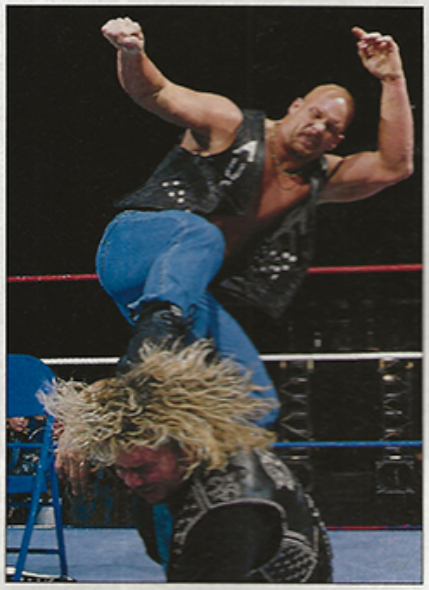
Dmike94565@aol.com

Payback Is A !@#$%!

Letter

Dear Editor,

I am greatly appalled by the actions of one Stone Cold Steve Austin. Without a doubt, this guy is a great athlete, but what he tried to do to Brian Pillman in the ring reminds me of what happened



to Shawn Michaels in Syracuse, New York. The World Wrestling Federation was THAT close to having the privilege of watching Pillman back in the ring again, but Austin destroyed all that when he re-injured the "Time Bomb". Does the word "PAYBACK" mean anything to you, Steve?

Farah Bagharib
Los Angeles, CA

And There's More Where That Came From!

Letter

Dear Editor,

I can honestly say that the World Wrestling Federation of today is better than the Federation of 10 years ago! I started out watching wrestling when my friend invited me over to his house for *WrestleMania IV*, and from that day forth I have always been intrigued by the happenings of the Federation superstars. Now some of those same superstars I saw back then are putting not even half the effort in another "Wheel Chair Wrestling" organization. I am disappointed to see my FORMER heroes and what they are doing today. But the Federation has always pulled through and brought better wrestlers in to compete, at the same time keeping some of our favorites in the spotlight (e.g., Jake Roberts and Jimmy Snuka). Keep up the good work!

David Bayens
Lexington, KY

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- PAY-PER-VIEW POST-MATCH COMMENTS: ***OPTION 8***

Thanks For The Memories!

EMail

Dear Editor,

If there's one thing that has amazed me over the years about the World Wrestling Federation, it has to be the broadcast colleagues that have entertained us on television every weekend. Personalities like Sean Mooney, Craig DeGeorge and even Lord Alfred Hayes gave me a refreshing break during the commercials. Many of the fans might not realize it, but the broadcasters played such an important piece of the history—almost as much as the superstars did. I think it's a shame some of them are forgotten today. They deserve better!

HEADJUG@aol.com

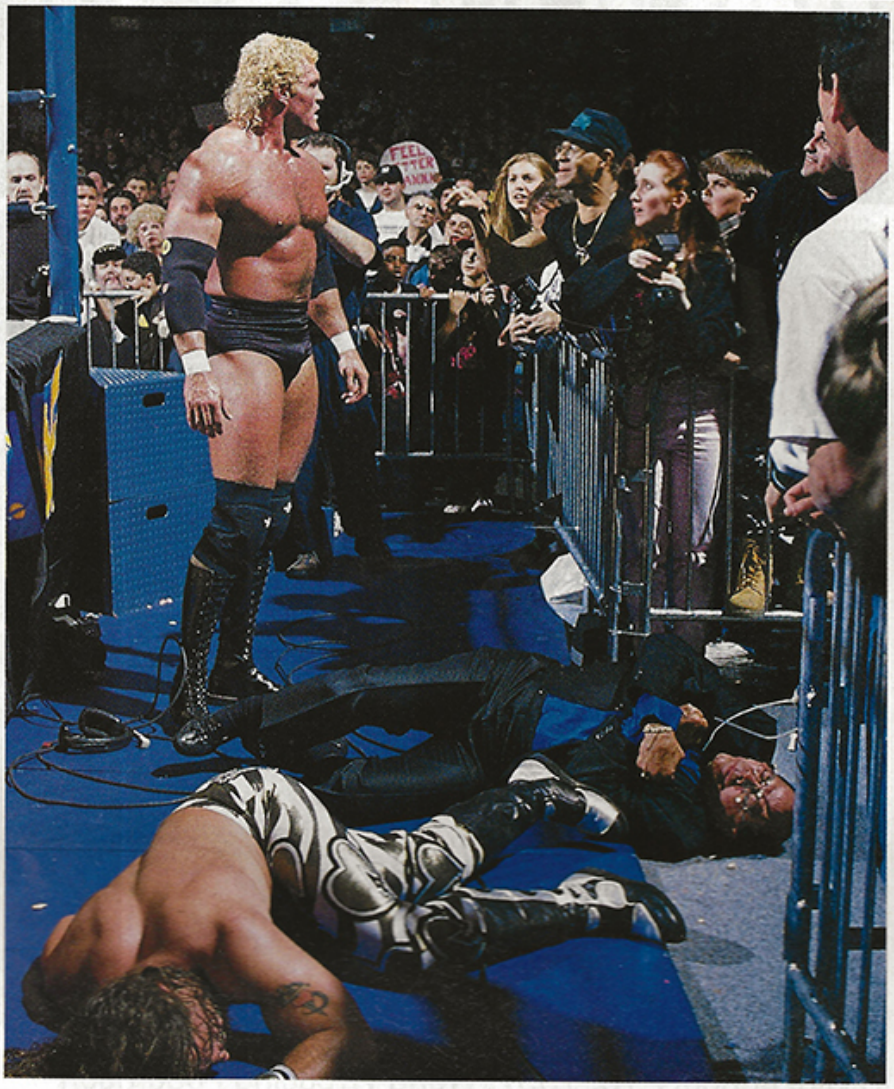
Sycho Sick!!!

Letter

Dear Editor,

Does anyone else have a problem with Sycho Sid being one of the top superstars in the World Wrestling Federation? First of all, the man is an ATTEMPTED MURDERER for what he pulled with Jose Lothario back at the *Survivor Series*. That may sound harsh, but it's the truth. Then he hits Shawn Michaels with the same 50-pound camera in front of a packed house at Madison Square Garden—whose fans, I might add, were cheering for the animal! It truly made me sick to my stomach. Think about what Sid did that night, "FANS", and then you will realize why he has no friends in the World Wrestling Federation!

James Padilla
Austin, TX



James Padilla can't understand why the fans in Madison Square Garden cheered for Sycho Sid after he hit 62-year-old Jose Lothario with a 50-pound camera. Without a doubt, New Yorkers are THE most interesting fans in the world!

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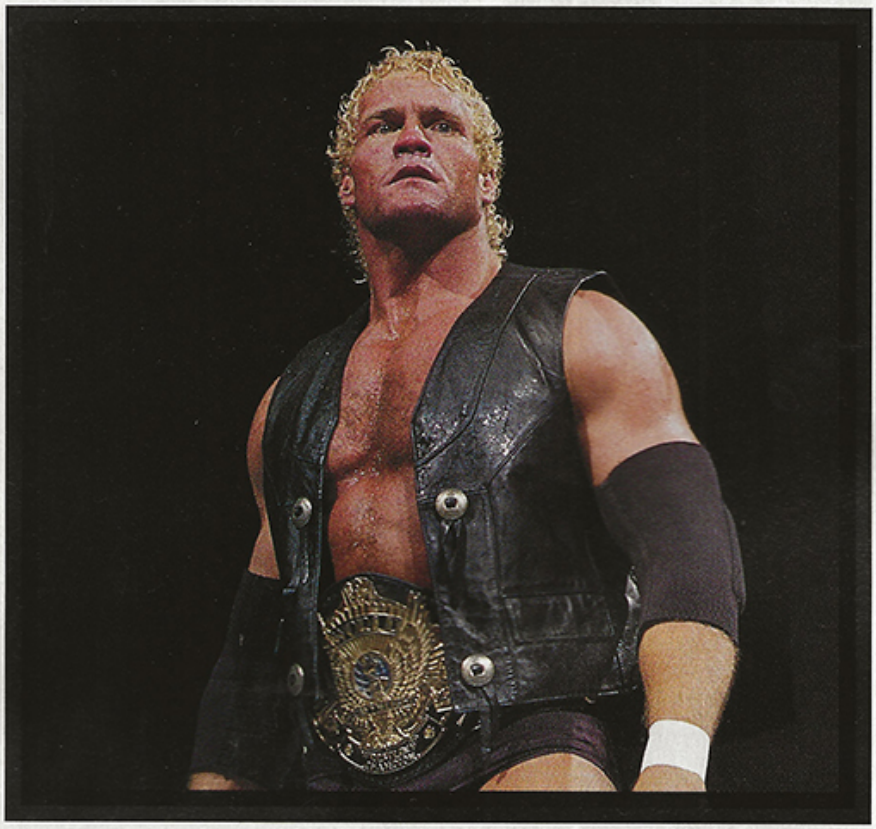
WORLD WRESTLING FEDERA



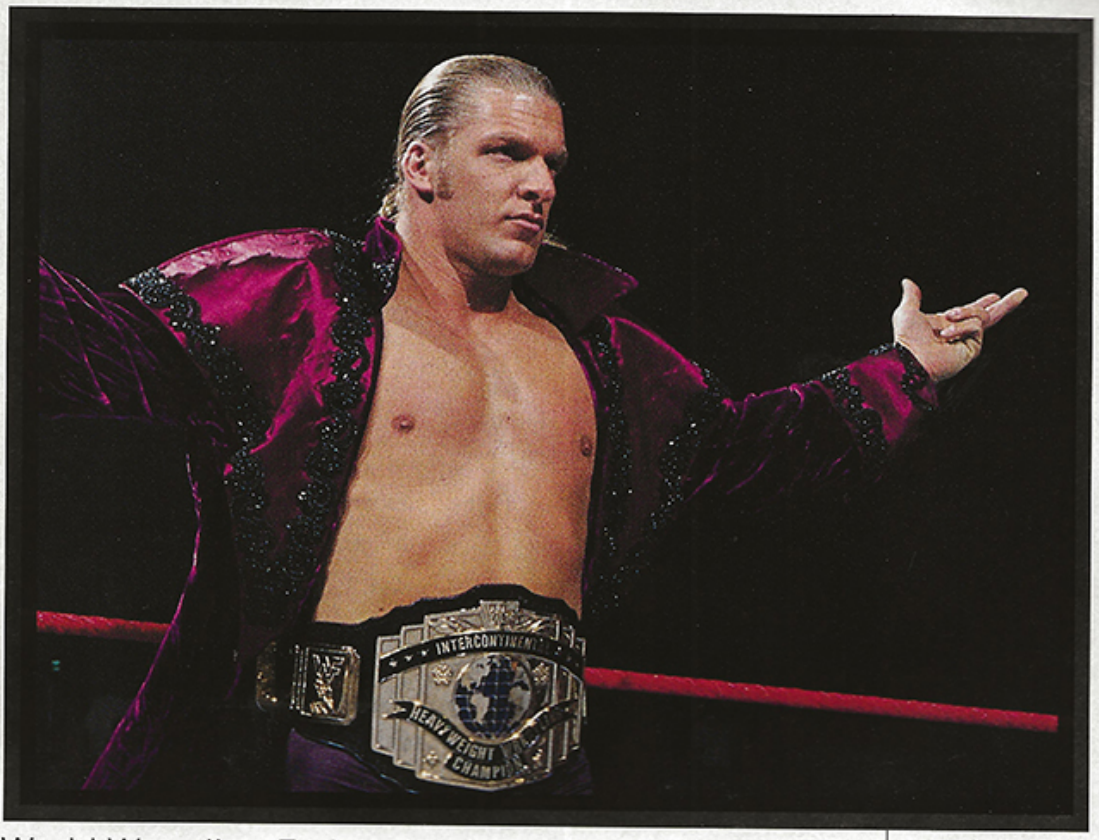
As of January 18, 1997, World Wrestling Federation Title Champion: **Sycho Sid**

1. SHAWN MICHAELS
2. BRET "HIT MAN" HART
3. UNDERTAKER
4. STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN
5. HUNTER HEARST-HELMSLEY
6. FAAROOQ
7. VADER
8. MANKIND
9. GOLDUST
10. AHMED JOHNSON

ANALYSIS

As of press time the *ROYAL RUMBLE* is still weeks away; however, by the time you read this it will be nothing but a memory, which in turn means... SHAWN MICHAELS could very well be the NEW World Wrestling Federation Champion. As a matter of fact, if you were to ask me... he definitely is!!! Based on what happened at the *SURVIVOR SERIES*, there is no doubt that Shawn had to be the No. 1 challenger going into the *Rumble*. In my opinion, if you take into consideration the intangible known as the "home ring advantage", there is a good chance that Shawn is once again sitting on top of the heap! On the heels of the Heartbreak Kid, and clearly my choice as the No. 2 contender is BRET "HIT MAN" HART. At December's *IN YOUR HOUSE*, Bret was well on his way to becoming a four-time Federation Champion until Michaels "conveniently" placed his business where it didn't belong. The Hit Man deserves another shot and whether it be Sid or Shawn, you can bet he's going to get it! The UNDERTAKER has been on a tear since the *SURVIVOR SERIES*, scoring decisive victories over Mankind and the Executioner, plus a DQ win over Crush. If the Undertaker defeated Vader at the *ROYAL RUMBLE*, then his time to once again claim the gold could very well be NOW! STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN holds the No. 4 slot, as he continues to cause CHAOS wherever he goes! His strategy to maim rather than just win may be what's keeping him from being the top contender. It takes a certain level of discipline to be the World Wrestling Federation Champion, and right now Austin may be lacking it! Coming in at the No. 5 poll is Federation Intercontinental Champion HUNTER HEARST-HELMSLEY. Even though Helmsley wears the IC gold around his waist, he very rarely has had to tango with the "bigger" boys in the Federation. On the one occasion where he went toe-to-toe with Sycho Sid, he found himself Powerbombed by the dangerous challenger who outweighed him by some 100 pounds! On the other hand, if Hunter were to score a victory over any one of the top five contenders—which he is more than capable of doing—he could very well be in line for a Title vs. Title match. No one seems to be able to overcome FAAROOQ these days, and if he did happen to edge out Ahmed Johnson at the *Rumble*, he could be sitting in the top three by the time the next issue of this magazine hits the newsstands. A big win over Bret Hart—even though it was tainted—on *Monday Night RAW* moves VADER up a notch, while MANKIND stays in the mix at No. 8 by scoring an impressive victory over Owen Hart, also on *Raw*. Like Austin, the temper of Goldust has kept the Movie Man from making a move in the top ten. The hatred he burns toward Hunter Hearst-Helmsley has prevented him from being focused on the most prestigious Oscar of them all—the World Wrestling Federation Title. AHMED JOHNSON rounds out the field, but if he showed impressive at the *RUMBLE* he could certainly skyrocket his ranking by the next issue!

ATION'S ~~OFFICIAL~~ RANKINGS



World Wrestling Federation Intercontinental Title Champion: **Hunter Hearst-Helmsley**

1. GOLDUST
2. STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN
3. AHMED JOHNSON
4. FAAROOQ
5. VADER
6. ROCKY MAIVIA
7. MANKIND
8. JERRY "THE KING" LAWLER
9. CRUSH
10. WILDMAN MARC MERO

ANALYSIS

By becoming Hunter Hearst-Helmsley's biggest nightmare, GOLDUST has gained the top spot as the No. 1 contender for the Intercontinental Title... and rightfully so. If the Movie Man can overcome his rage—concerning Hunter's advances toward Marlena—just long enough to stay focused on the matter at hand—the IC gold—then by the time the final credits roll the Greenwich snob may TRULY never forget the name... Goldust. Banging at the door at the No. 2 spot is STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN, and for good reason—Hunter may not want to answer! Remember, it was at October's *In Your House* when Austin stun-gunned, then pinned Helmsley BEFORE Triple-H became the IC Champion. If the fans of the World Wrestling Federation were to have their way, and the two would lock up just one more time, Austin could very well become significantly more weighty around the waist! AHMED JOHNSON never got a shot at what was taken from him, and he deserves one—SOON! At the No. 4 position, FAAROOQ and the "Nation" are pumping at full steam! If Faarooq succeeded in scoring the upset over Ahmed at the *ROYAL RUMBLE*, look for him to jump to the head of the pack by the next rankings! Here comes VADER! Beating Bret Hart on *Monday Night RAW* (even though Steve Austin contributed a helping hand) gave the Rocky Mountain Monster the new life that he so desperately needed since losing to Shawn Michaels at *SUMMERSLAM*. In my opinion, Vader is back, and in a matter of time EVERYBODY will have to sit up and take notice! Yes, ROCKY MAIVIA comes in at No. 6! No one will ever forget what the young sensation accomplished at the *SURVIVOR SERIES*, and by defeating the British Bulldog one month later on *Monday Night Raw* he proved to the entire world that he was indeed for real! With the Undertaker now behind him (or so I think) MANKIND is on the comeback trail at No. 7, while JERRY "THE KING" LAWLER cracks the top ten at No. 8 by upsetting (as tainted as it was) Goldust on *RAW*. At No. 9, CRUSH may be the most underrated superstar in the World Wrestling Federation—BUT look for all that to change in the very near future. While at December's *In Your House*, even though the WILDMAN MARC MERO upset Hunter Hearst-Helmsley by DQ, he spilled down the ladder soon thereafter by losing to Triple-H—also via DQ—the following night on *RAW*.

The Bite: Uncensored!!!

Since his debut in the World Wrestling Federation, Goldust's critics have been his harshest judges, jury and executioners! However, Vic Venom claims that maybe they should have looked themselves in the mirror first and come to terms with their own insecurities!

By Vic Venom

(DISCLAIMER: THE OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS COLUMN AREN'T NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION OR TITAN SPORTS.)

Gold-dusted!!!

How were your holidays? Good. Mine? What the hell do you care?!!! Now that the pleasantries are out of the way, I want to take some time to talk to you about some magician guy I came across on HBO while channel-surfing over my very SHORT vacation. Now, I'm not much on grown men who pull rabbits out of their hats for a living—even if one is dating Claudia Schiffer—but this particular illusionist succeeded in capturing my interest. I mean, this guy was pulling cards from out of his... ASK me and I'll tell you later. So, Vic, what's your point—you're all asking yourselves? My point is—quite simply—it was all SLIGHT OF HAND!

SLIGHT OF HAND—GOLDUST. Possibly the greatest magician of our time. An eccentric illusionist who made everybody see things that just weren't there. From Razor Ramon to bored, homely housewives living in Evansville, Indiana, Goldust made them all believe that he was... well, YOU KNOW... when, in fact, he was more man than many men ever dream of being! Yes, it was all a mind game, and you people ALL bought it—LIGHTS, CAMERA and ACTION!!! I mean, talk about coming out of the closet, you close-minded, righteous souls were COMING OUT OF THE WOODWORK in protest of the "Bizarre One"!

Now, don't be sitting there denying it, saying that you knew all along. We all know that's a pile of GUNK (I'm using the word GUNK because you know damn well that they won't let me say what I really want to say)!!! I mean, I myself talked to some of those screwball mothers during the height of—what we will now refer to as "Goldust Paranoia"!!! They were WILD!!! They were LIVID!!! I can even remember specifically asking them if they were "LISTENING" to what Goldust was actually saying OR if, in fact, they were only "HEARING" what they wanted to HEAR. Have you scholars ever heard of DOUBLE-ENTENDRE?! That's when a saying or word can have two meanings with one of them having a risqué or indecorous connotation! Well, even though I have no idea what the heck "indecorous" means, I do know that for some reason or other all you "Ivory Snow goody-goodies" out there took it upon YOURSELVES to pick the meaning that was "lowest to the road"—IF YOU WILL—every time Goldust spoke!!! In other words, it was YOUR perversions that were coming out, NOT those of Goldust!!!

You PROTESTED him!!! You CRIED OUT that you weren't going to let your children watch him!!! You flooded the switchboard and overloaded the mailroom, and WHY—because of your own insecurities!!! Now, as harsh as that may sound—IT IS THE TRUTH!!! Before Goldust was put in front of a jury for judgment, the jurors forgot to do one thing first... TAKE A LONG, HARD (double-entendre) LOOK IN THE MIRROR!!! Just because somebody comes across as "different," doesn't necessarily mean that he's the devil himself!!! Goldust was the victim here! He was treated unfairly from day one! It was his critics who were their own worst enemies—guilty of letting their "twisted" imaginations run wild!

Now, there is a very valuable lesson to be learned here and that is: Don't be so quick to judge somebody just because... well, just because... he may look like DORIS DAY!!! And, second and perhaps more important... think with your head... not under it!!!

By the way, that was a DOUBLE-ENTENDRE because I was talking about your HEARTS!!!

Later. ■

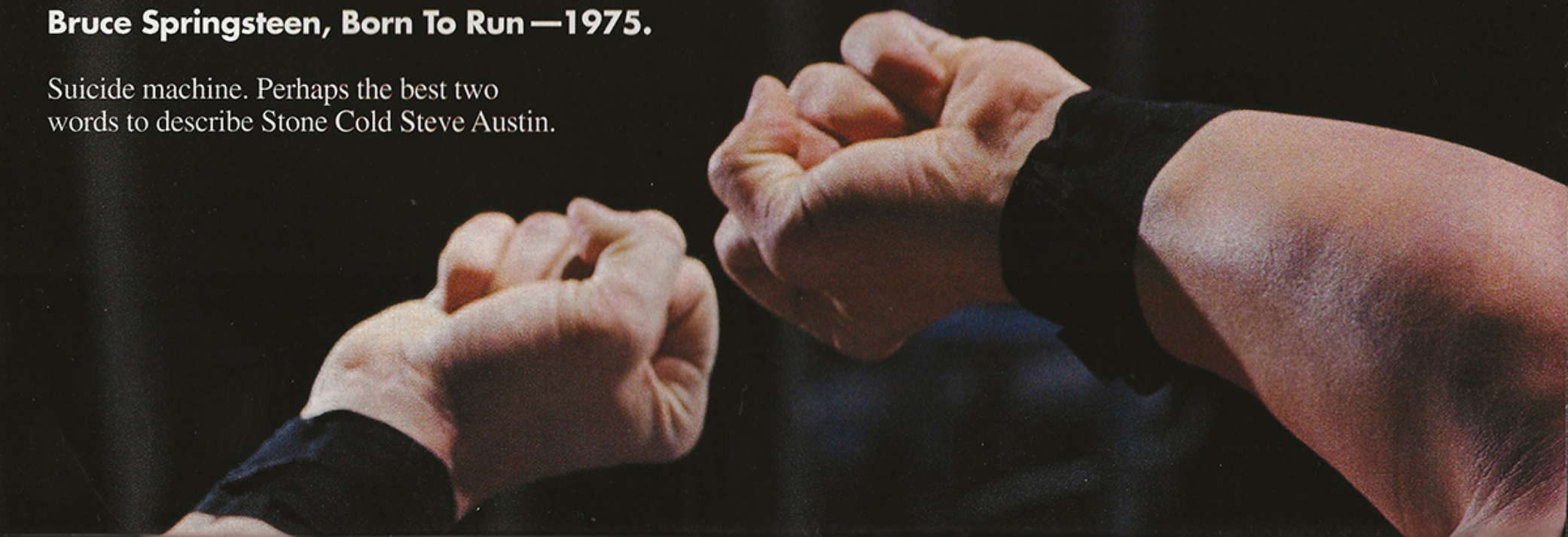
Stone Cold... or Suicidal?!

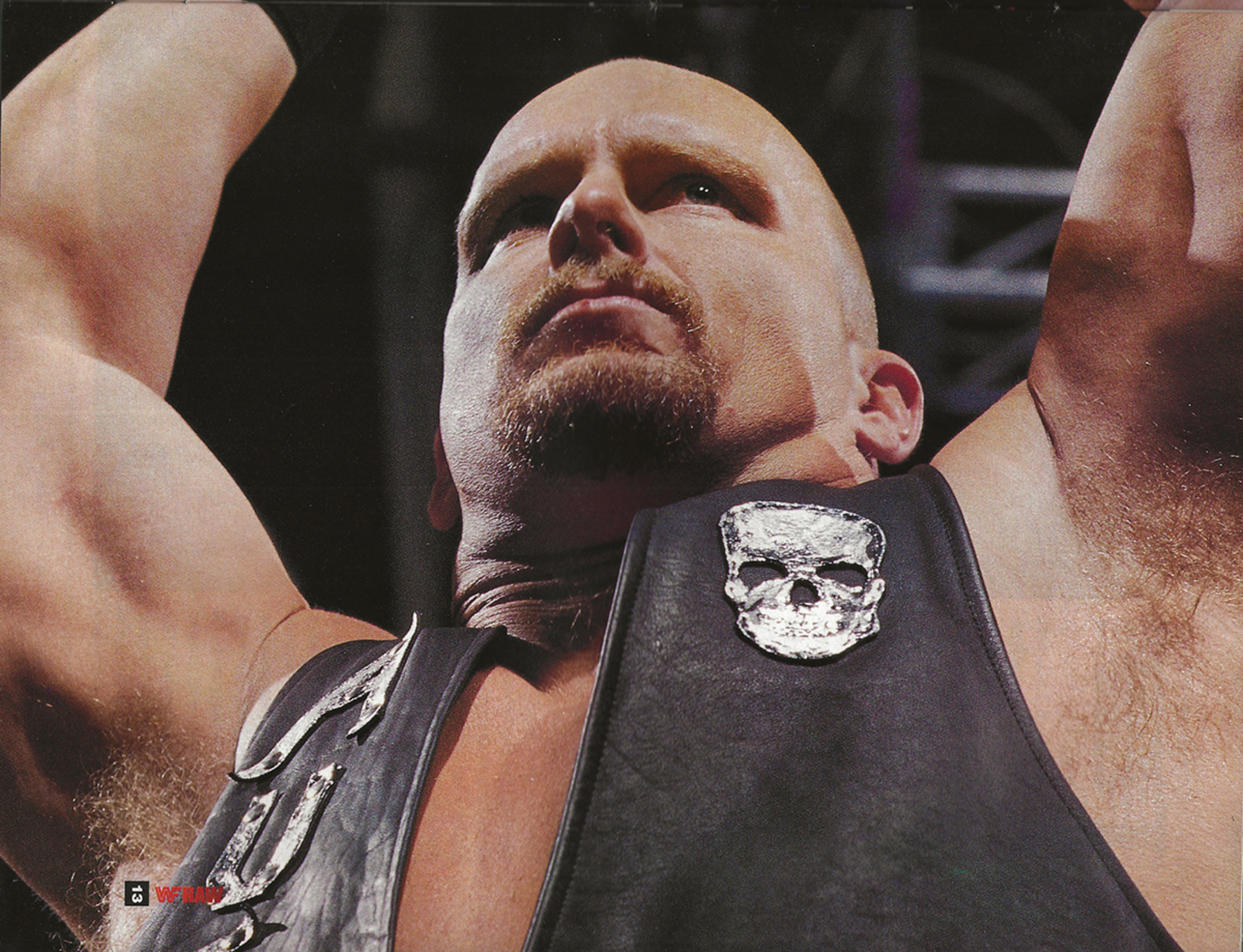
By Vince Russo

In the day we sweat it out on the streets of a runaway American dream. At night we ride through mansions of glory in suicide machines.

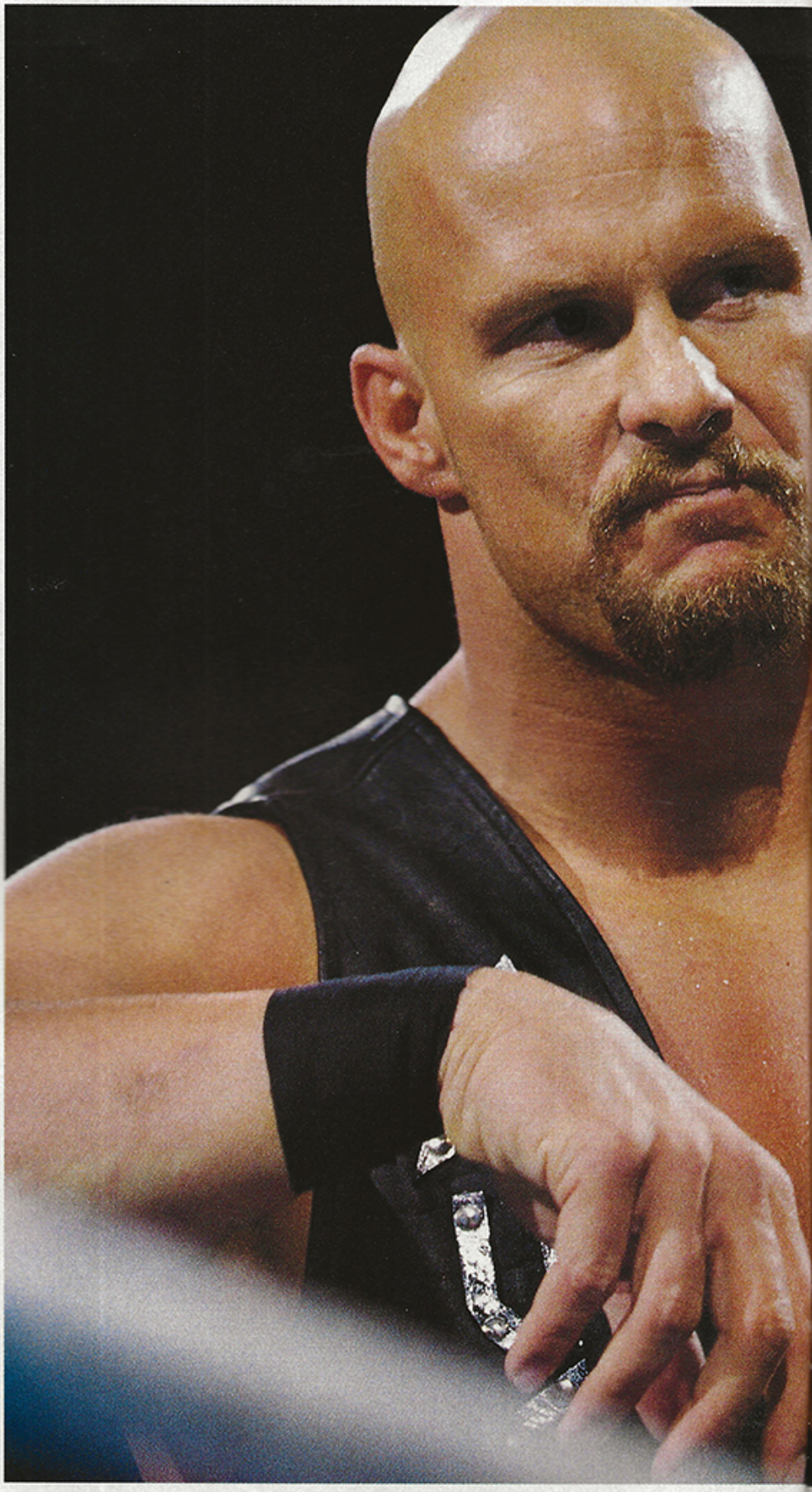
Bruce Springsteen, Born To Run—1975.

Suicide machine. Perhaps the best two words to describe Stone Cold Steve Austin.

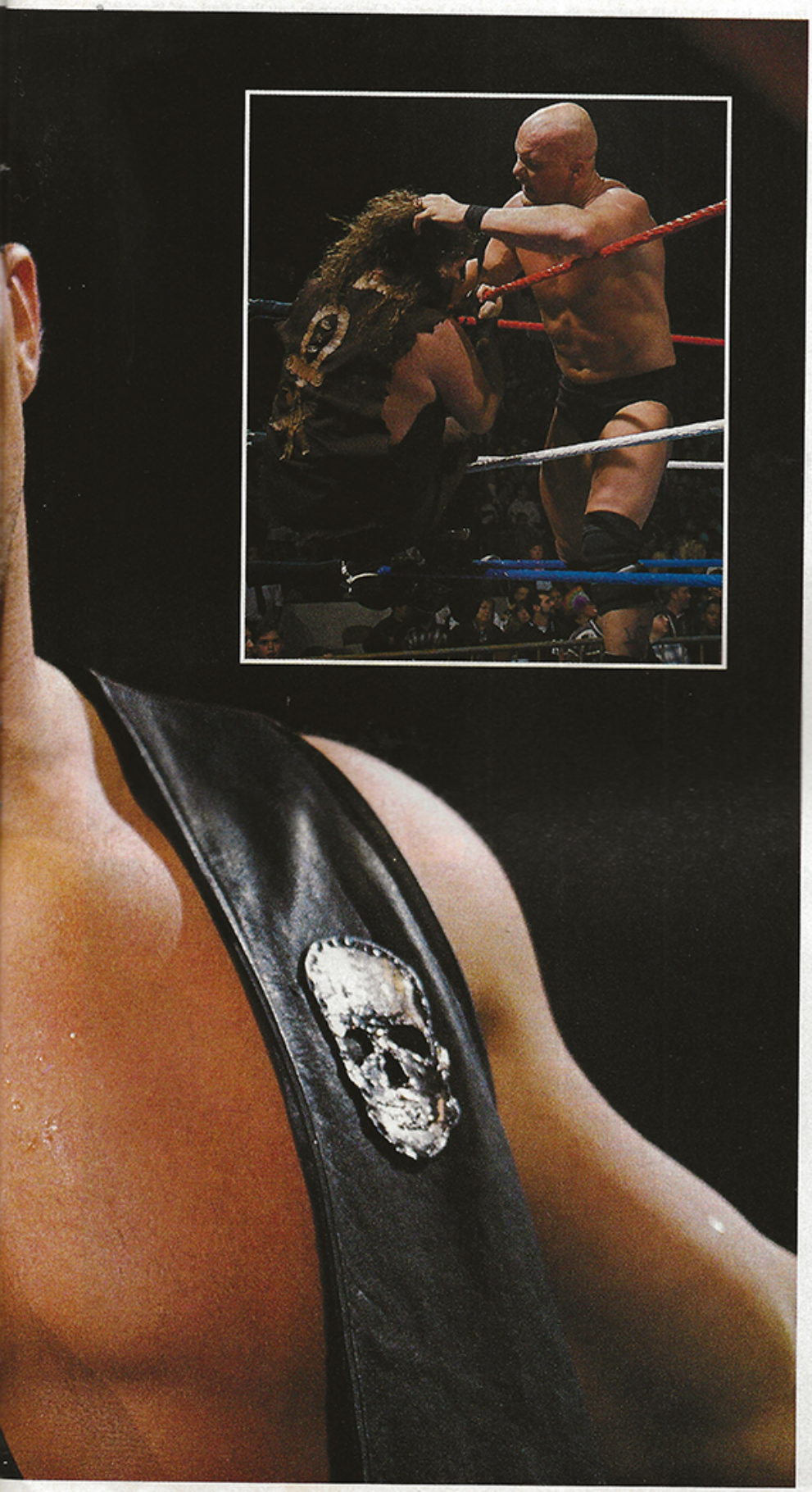




I have to give credit where credit is due—it was Vic Venom who said on *Live Wire* that "Stone Cold Steve Austin may very well be on a mission of suicide." On the surface, Venom's theory may seem questionable, maybe even outlandish; however, if you go to the videotape and roll ANY footage involving Stone Cold Steve Austin, the highly opinionated journalist may be right on the money!



It all started on November 17 at the *Survivor Series*, when Stone Cold Steve Austin went toe-to-toe, FIST-TO-FIST, with Bret "Hit Man" Hart for what seemed like an eternity. The pain that these two warriors inflicted on each other was torturous even to watch! The stinging of every blow smacked me across the face as I witnessed the war on a television monitor somewhere in the bowels of Madison Square Garden! Yes, Bret Hart won the match, but the victory was almost secondary to the point that Stone Cold Steve made that night. The point that said, "This isn't about winning or losing... it's about me kicking your !@#$!" His eyes told the story after the bell rang. They were cold, black, emotionless when he stared across the ring at the Hit Man following his defeat. In silence they



Stone Cold stands alone in the World Wrestling Federation. He has no friends and he doesn't care if competitors like Mankind claim to follow the same philosophy that he does. In his world, Austin 3:16 is the only "good book".

screamed: "You were the better man tonight... but you and I both know... that don't mean @#$%! There will come another time... another place."

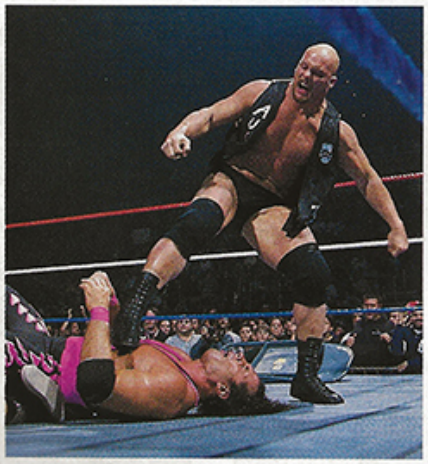
But until that time was to come... Steve Austin was set on making many other lives miserable along the way. Over the span of the next two weeks, Stone Cold crossed paths with Mankind and the Undertaker (the very next night), Bart Gunn, Billy Gunn, Bret Hart again (although only momentarily), the British Bulldog, Owen Hart, Sycho Sid, the British Bulldog (again) and—even though it still wasn't quite the official payback—there was one more brief beating for old friend Bret Hart. There was no question that during this reign of terror, Stone Cold Steve Austin was making his intentions clear... and he was taking no prisoners.

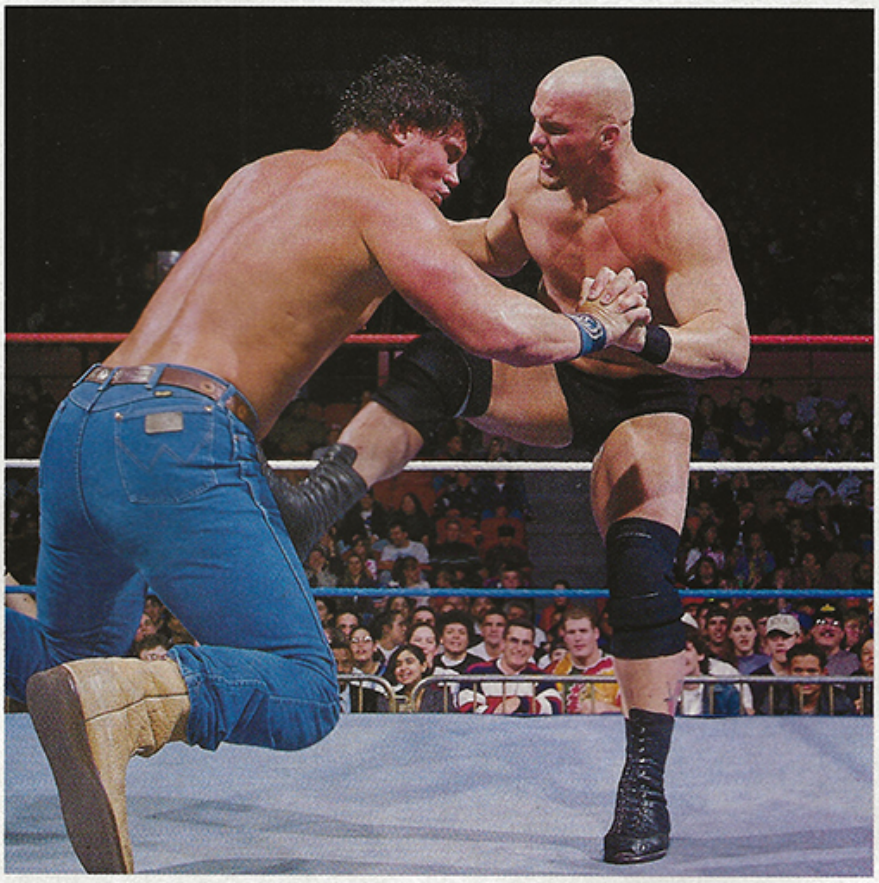
Stone Cold... or suicidal? That is the question. Is Stone Cold Steve Austin's most dangerous enemy... Stone Cold Steve Austin? Has he become so alienated that the only one left for him to hurt is himself? As he so eloquently puts it—THE BOTTOM LINE IS: This man has NO FRIENDS, only enemies, and PLENTY of them. Can one man survive on his own in the World Wrestling Federation? Even Mankind has Uncle Paul watching the back entrance to his straitjacket, and where exactly would Goldust be without his inspiration, Marlena? In a dog-eat-dog world like the World Wrestling Federation, you must align yourself with every soldier that you can, just to increase your chances of survival! In choosing to live his life SOLO,

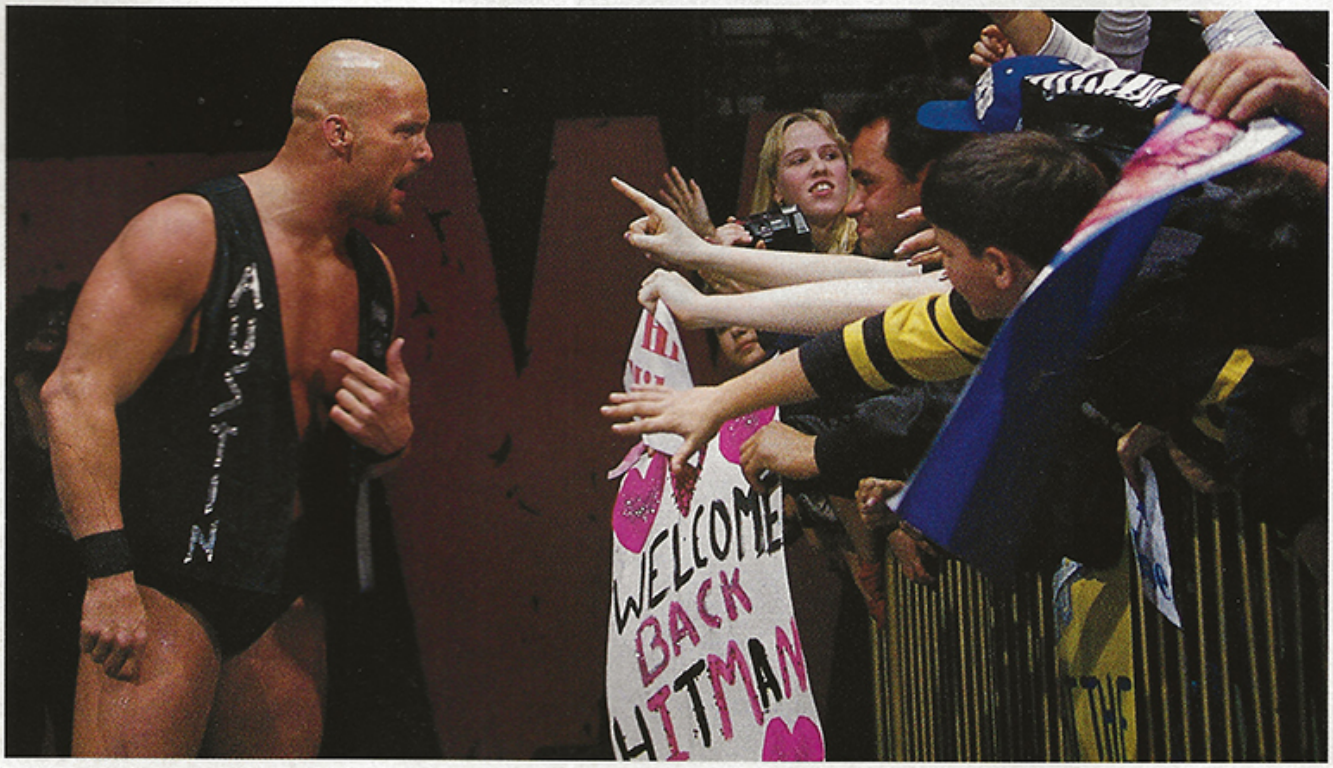
Steve Austin has left himself very much UNPROTECTED! In the end, this decision may lead to his very demise!

When it comes to the mat wars—ONE can be a very lonely number. In the opinion of this editor, if Stone Cold Steve Austin plans to preach Austin 3:16 to his Stone Cold grandkids, then he might want to consider rethinking his game plan just a tad... before it has the chance to backfire and kick him in his own @#$%! ■

(Below left) Suicidal? Perhaps. By jumping on the backs of brothers-in-law Bret Hart and the British Bulldog, Austin could very well be burning out the machine that drives him. (Bottom) Stone Cold couldn't give a spit about the fans. If they don't like what he has to say... tough! (Below right) After crossing paths with Vader, Mankind, Bret "Hit Man" Hart and Bart Gunn within the span of a few weeks, could Steve Austin be on a suicide path? Only time will tell...





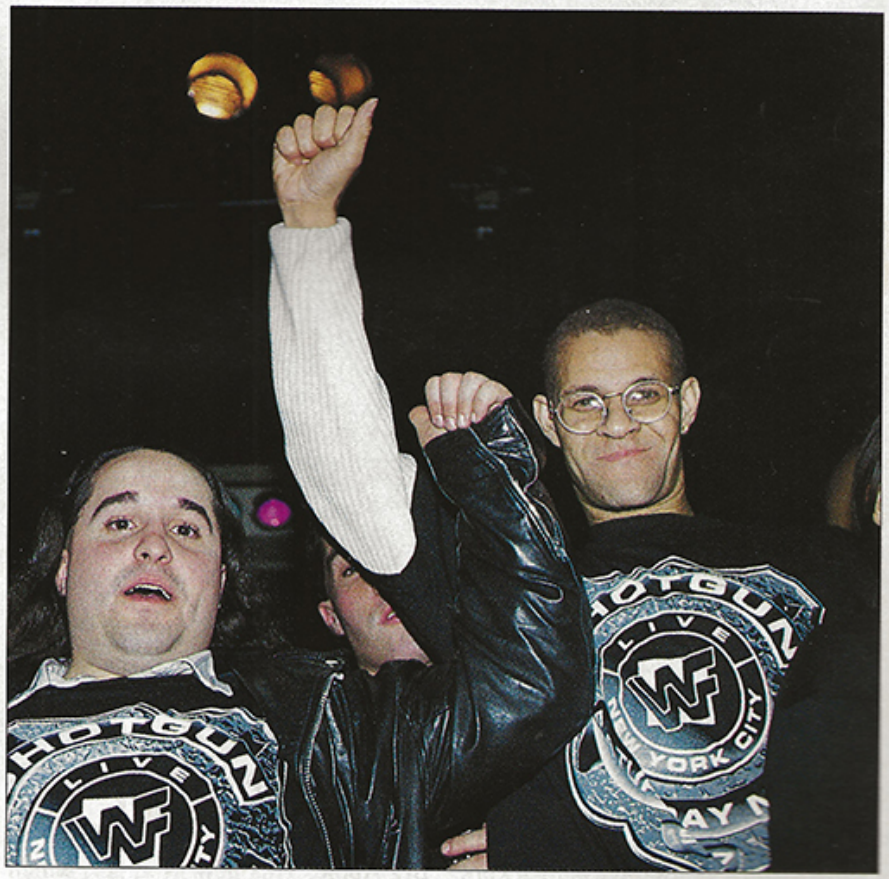


A "shot" heard around the world!

By Bill Banks

Shotgun Saturday Night Explodes!!!

Back on September 13, 1993, the World Wrestling Federation said a final goodbye to the Manhattan Center—the New York City historical theater that had been home to *Monday Night RAW* for close to a year. That night after the doors were shut and the superstars headed back out on the road, Vince McMahon took one last look at the ring. Inside that squared circle, he had nurtured *RAW* from its modest beginnings and developed it into the single greatest sports-entertainment program broadcast out of New York City... and "tackled" the nationally televised *Monday Night Football* while doing it. Now it was time to take *RAW* on the road, but as he walked out of the Manhattan Center, Vince promised himself that—in some way—the Big Apple would once again experience that same live World Wrestling Federation action as *RAW*.



Many of the "hard-core" fans of the World Wrestling Federation came out in droves to help make the premiere of *Shotgun Saturday Night* a huge success!

Ironically enough, close to a year before that very night in 1993, *Saturday Night's Main Event* held its final match in Terre Haute, Indiana, when Shawn Michaels beat the British Bulldog for his first Intercontinental Title reign. For the next four years, instead of seeing *Saturday Night's Main Event* on the tube, Federation fans grew tired of having "Deep Thoughts" on NBC, and they had already read all the spy vs. spy cartoons that were on FOX. It seemed the

(Above) Brother Love made his World Wrestling Federation return by living in sin with the Flying Nuns, while the luscious Marlena (right) showed Mr. Bob Backlund perhaps a little bit more than he was looking for!

closest fans got to LIVE action on Saturday nights was if the COPS made an unannounced visit to a neighbor's house.

For four years, New Yorkers screamed for the Federation to return with more live action, while at the same time they also craved a revival of *Saturday Night's Main Event.* Although they enjoyed the blockbuster events at Madison Square Garden, Big Apple fans needed that extra "kick".

Finally, on January 4, 1997, Vince McMahon and the World Wrestling Federation gave the fans BOTH! Almost four years to the day that *RAW* debuted in 1993, McMahon once again proved himself "the Innovator" and delivered *Shotgun Saturday Night* to the Big Apple. This new program, which will be live each and every Saturday night from a different New York hotspot (and periodically on the road), has all the feel of *New York, New York* in a one-hour show! The nightlife, the electricity and let's face it, folks, the priceless attitude of New York City's fans are all included in this national television broadcast! Where else can you hear people chanting "Holy $@#%!" when two nuns get into a ring?

And if the FIRST week was any indication of the inevitable success of this new program, get ready to buckle up for one helluva ride!

In the premiere episode of *Shotgun Saturday Night*, newcomers the Flying Nuns faced former Federation Tag Team Champions the Godwinns. Just as the match got underway, cameras caught a glimpse of the flush-red

televangelist Brother Love making his way to the ring! In this unsuspecting return to the Federation, Love helped the nuns beat the pig farmers, then announced that he was dubbing this "holy" team "The Sisters of Love". From that point on, people watching at home knew this would be the place where the "you-know-what" would hit the fan every week!

Love's return was ANYTHING but the "climax" of the premiere hour. During the Goldust/Sultan match, it seemed all but over for the Golden One as the Middle Eastern madman had the Camel Clutch latched onto his opponent's back. During the course of the encounter, the Sultan was obviously captivated by Marlena... SO, the golden girl did what any concerned manager would do—she "directed" herself out of her dress and LIT up the Mirage. Fans couldn't believe the "whole lotta heaven" that was before their eyes and

neither could the Sultan, who basically gave up the win at THAT point! We guarantee that moment will be talked about by people for YEARS to come!

With the return of the Brotherly One and Marlena's "sneak peek", you would think that *Shotgun* had fulfilled every fan's vision of a late-night broadcast spectacular... but things were only beginning to heat up!

During the Ahmed Johnson/Crush match "violence" was given an entirely new definition, courtesy of the returning former Intercontinental Champion and a parked car. After the Nation of Domination interfered in the encounter, an enraged Johnson grabbed a member of the "Nation of Domination" security and launched him out the door into the

After he was crowned with a steel chair by Crush (left), Ahmed Johnson decided to take it to the streets with the Nation of Domination (far left). Unfortunately, *Shotgun Saturday Night* didn't turn out quite the way that the husky-legged James E. Cornette had planned (below).

streets of the Big Apple. In front of a storm of club-goers who followed the fight outside, Ahmed dragged his prey onto the top of the automobile, nearly collapsing its roof with a Pearl River Plunge.

After the Mirage security staff cleared up the carnage in the street, the AAA "minis" (Mexican "vertically challenged" wrestlers) took to the ring to give the environment a much needed "lighter" atmosphere. As they are accustomed to doing in arenas all over Mexico, Mascarita Sagrada and Mini Vader dazzled the Mirage crowd with a kamikaze aerial assault. Jim Cornette—who pledged "his" Mini Vader would get the win—had to eat crow when Sagrada came out on top. After losing face, Cornette waddled into the ring and stared down at his little protege. However, Sagrada and Mini Vader stripped the manager to his "skivvies" and sent Cornette high-tailing it out the door and into the wintery streets of the city.

The events that unfolded on the first *Shotgun* that January night were truly only a sign of things to come for this revolutionary new show. If you aren't able to catch *Shotgun* just yet, more cities are being added weekly to the already growing list of markets across the country who are airing it. With more and more local stations picking up the live Saturday night action, it will only get bigger and better as time goes on. And in time, *Mad TV* and *Saturday Night Live* will have to accept the reality that *Shotgun Saturday Night* is here to kick ass on the weekend! ■

The Undertaker: Welcome To The 21st Century

BY LOU GIANFRIDDO

Recently, the Undertaker has exhibited a new brand of aggression on the World Wrestling Federation.

He has been pummeling his opponents to within inches, if not centimeters, of their lives, often using tactics and strategies he has never before implemented. Many Federation fans have speculated about the reasons for the Man from the Dark Side's sudden—but perhaps not too unforeseen—shift in style.

RAW Magazine has "dug up" the Undertaker's past in order to give the fans an outlook on his possible future. The Undertaker's newly animated "dark side" is the result of a tumultuous past that is now coming back to haunt any superstar who has the guts to step before him in the squared circle.

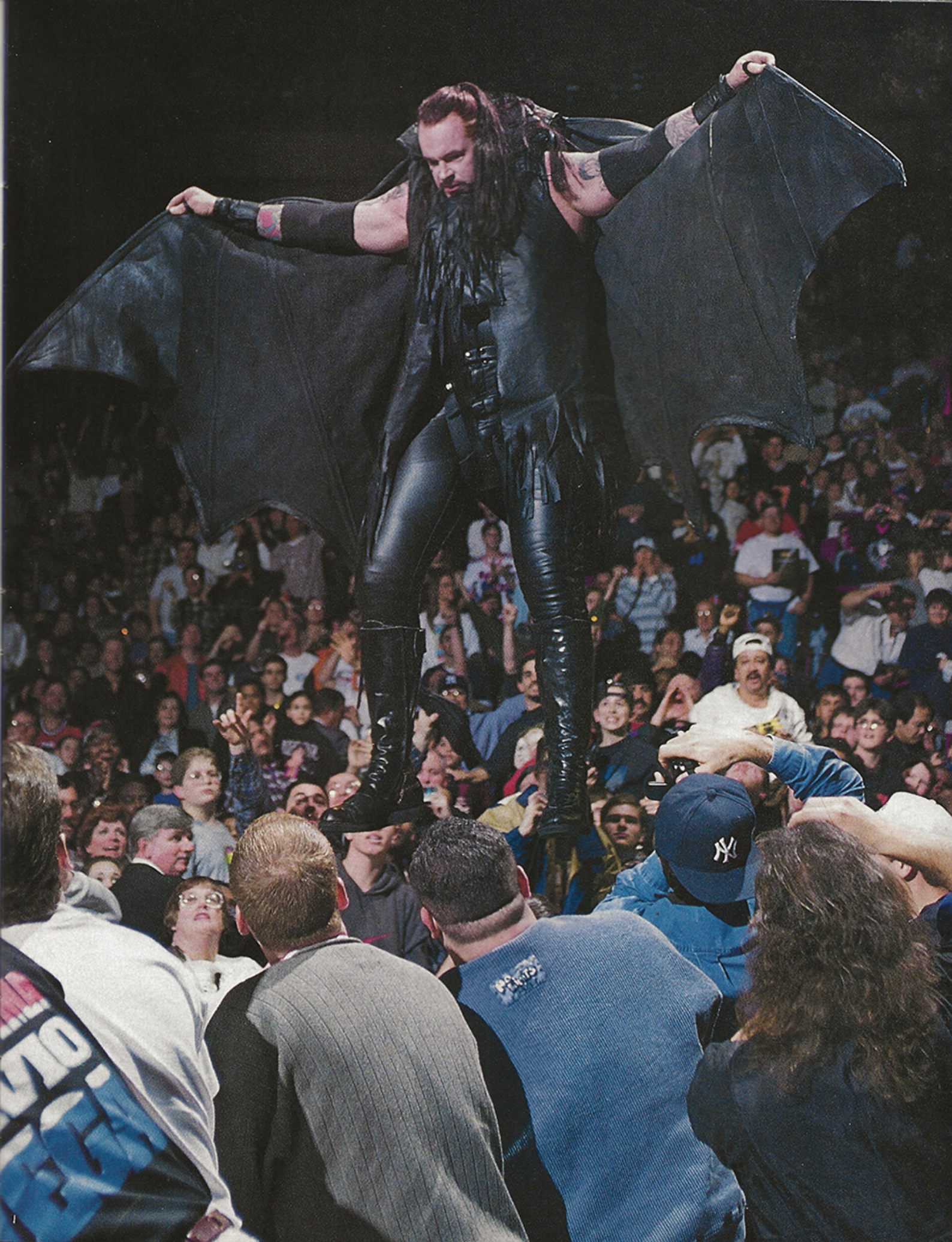
First, look at the Undertaker's epic battles in the Federation since he made his grim debut at the 1990 *Survivor Series*. He has eliminated or eradicated, depending on the source, some of the most prized athletes in the World Wrestling Federation.

In part, he was responsible for laying many wrestling careers to rest. He destroyed Hulk Hogan in 1991 at the *Survivor Series* in Detroit, wresting away not only a memorable career but also the Federation strap. Before Hogan, the Undertaker had also gotten rid of such Federation stalwarts as the Macho Man Randy Savage and Dusty Rhodes.

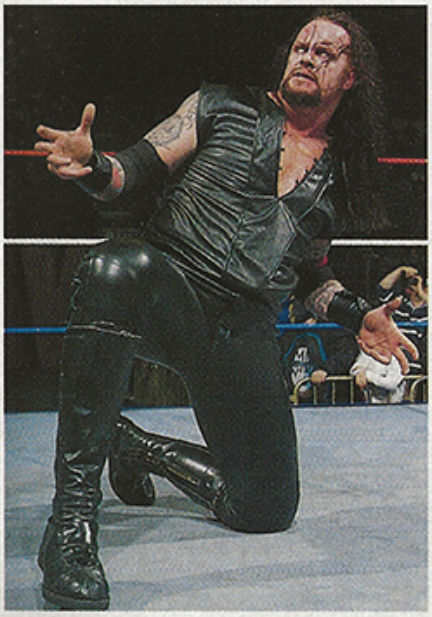
In the years that followed, the Undertaker's "hit list", as many of his disciples call it, reads like a *Who's Who* of this organization's alumni that includes Kamala, the African Beast. The Undertaker soundly defeated Kamala in a series of Casket Matches in 1992, until an apogee was reached at *SummerSlam* '92 in London. Not too long after Kamala fell by the wayside, Nailz—the former ex-con—was next.

Then a stream of monstrous athletes came after the Undertaker. Giant Gonzales—all seven-feet, seven-inches of him—was no match. He was felled by the Grim Reaper in 1993. Bam Bam Bigelow, the 380-pound "whirling

(Left) Since Brother Love introduced the Undertaker to the World Wrestling Federation in 1990, the phenom (right) has gone through a change—both physically and mentally—that will lead him into the dark world of the 21st Century.



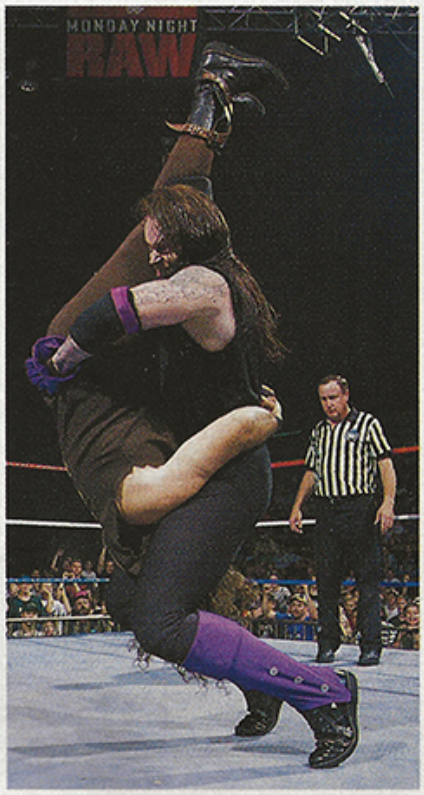
The Undertaker (below)—now minus his urn—looks to the Creatures of the Night for his power. By examining this picture (bottom), you can clearly see that the Undertaker has become a more grim demon since 1990. Even his Tombstone Piledriver (right) seems to be more menacing now that his transformation is complete.



dervish", was next. He fell into the Undertaker's clutches in 1994. The Ultimate Warrior, who has been here, there and everywhere, was another victim—perhaps the most significant. After the Warrior's titanic clashes with the Undertaker, the former Federation Champion has just never been the same—psychologically or physically.

King Kong Bundy, the man who crushed Hulk Hogan's ribs prior to *WrestleMania 2* in 1986, is another who has never been the same. Bundy was soundly battered at the Undertaker's hands many times during the course of 1994 and 1995. In 1996, the Undertaker collided with such superstars as Bret Hart, but his most ferocious competition came in the form of Mankind, a man many believe(ed) is the Undertaker's exact duplicate.

Perhaps the presence of Mankind caused the Undertaker's sudden shift in style. After all, Mankind buried the Grim Reaper alive at October's *In Your House*. Before that, they nearly wasted each other at *SummerSlam's* Boiler Room Brawl, a match in which chairs, pipes and air-conditioning ducts were employed as a means for victory. Their battles on *Monday Night RAW*, of course, have been nothing short of life...

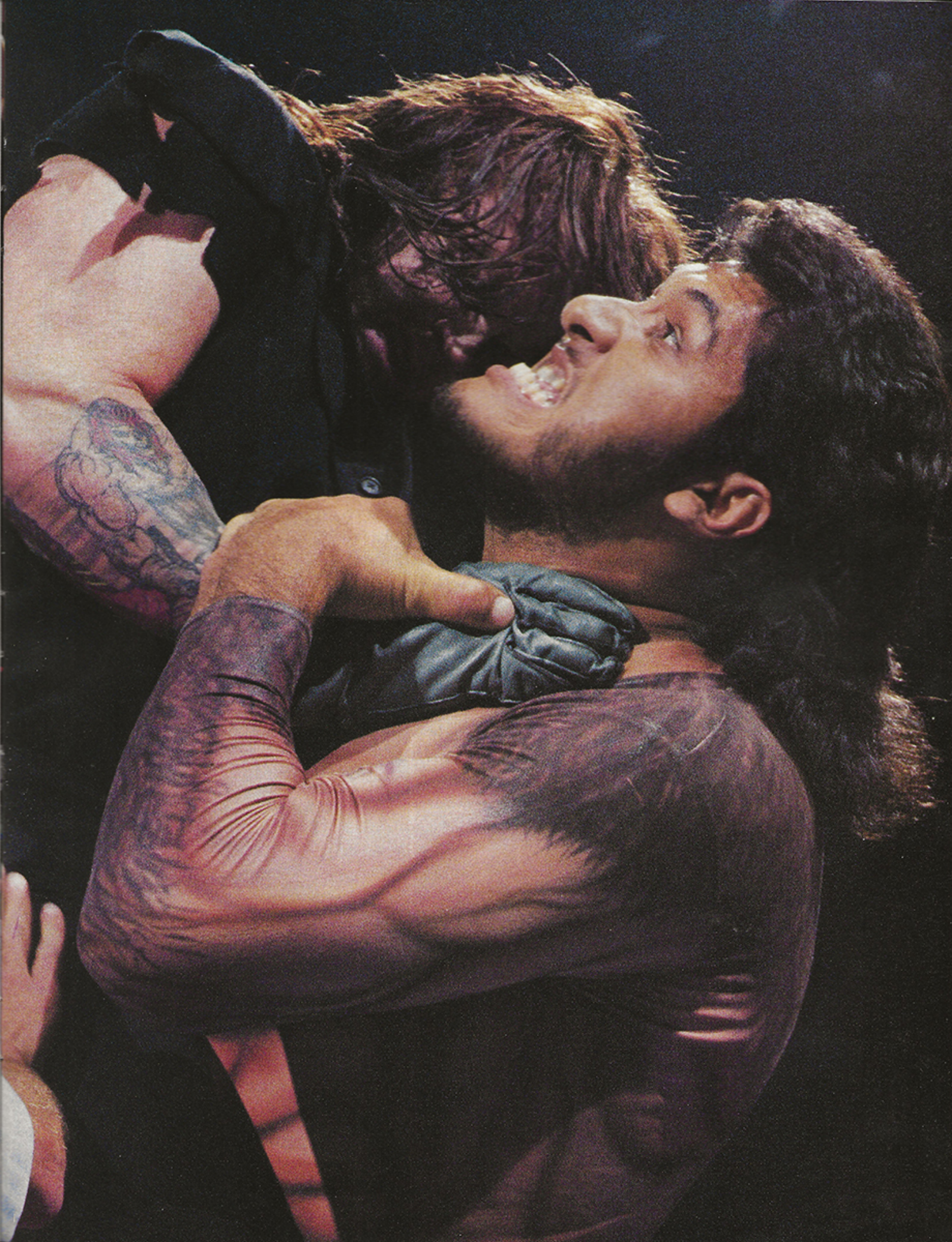


ugh, breathtaking. In all actuality, at six-feet, two-inches and 287 pounds, Mankind has the speed and tenacity of a cruiserweight. His ability to perform in the ring like a daredevil who seems to enjoy the thrill of crippling his own body may have forced the Undertaker to alter his stalking, menacing wrestling style that has served him so well for so many years.

With that theory in mind, one glaring question remains: Is the metamorphosis complete or could something even more drastic be next for the Undertaker?

Such are the mysteries of the Undertaker. As ironic as it may sound, indeed such are the mysteries of life: No one knows what will happen until we get there... ■

(Right) After burying monsters such as the Giant Gonzales, King Kong Bundy and Kamala for the past six years, can there be an even grimmer change for the former Purple Demon? Only the powers of the dark side know for sure.



It started as a thought, far in the back of Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka's mind. Does he have what it takes to step through the ropes at New York's Madison Square Garden one last time?

The Superfly's Last Hurrah

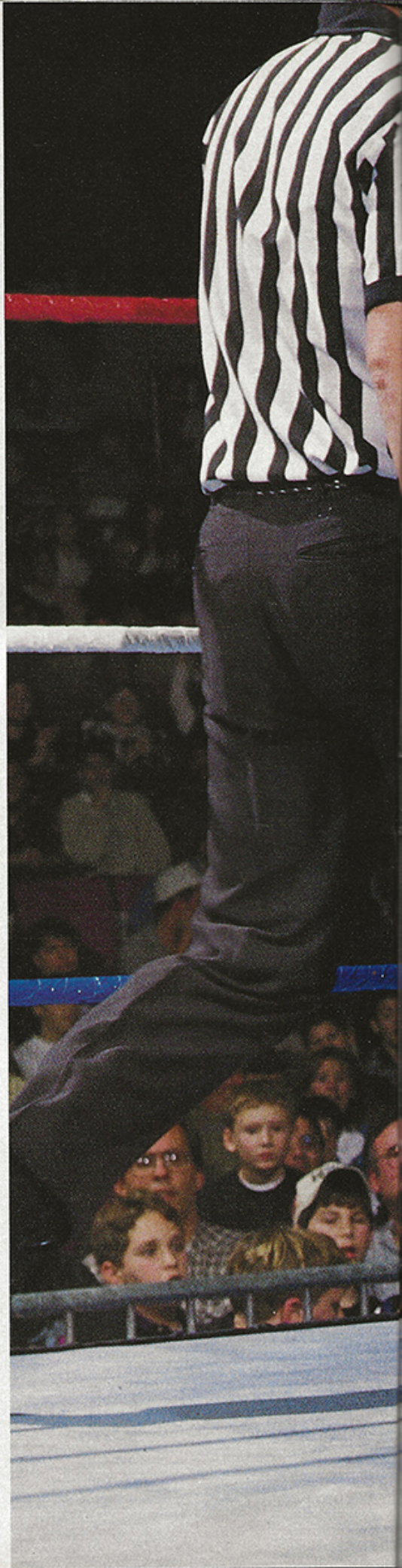
By Keith Elliot Greenberg

At first, the idea was little more than a fantasy. He was scheduled to be inducted into the World Wrestling Federation Hall of Fame the weekend of the *Survivor Series*. What better way to commemorate the honor than actually wrestling on the Pay-Per-View spectacular? After all, this wasn't just any arena, but Madison Square Garden—the place where Snuka truly established himself as a superstar for the ages. If not for his wars in the building with the Magnificent Muraco, Bob Backlund, Ray "The Crippler" Stevens and others, it is possible that the Hall of Fame committee might have overlooked the high-flier from the Fiji Islands.

Snuka noticed that he was training harder in the weight room than he had in years. And he was getting into the ring with sparring partners and practicing his celebrated "superfly leap" from the top rope. Within a couple of days, his musings had given way to something more serious. A voice inside the Superfly told him that he needed to climb into that ring for a last hurrah, making history by becoming the first World Wrestling Federation Hall of Famer to participate in a match after his induction.

For several years, Snuka's name had been floated as a Hall of Fame candidate. Interestingly, he had never won a title in the World Wrestling Federation. But it didn't really matter. Even without a belt, Snuka made a significant impact on the wrestling world from the moment he debuted in the Federation in 1982.

Matwatchers had never seen a man who could combine a high-flying arsenal with the same degree of skill and fearlessness as the hearty Polynesian.

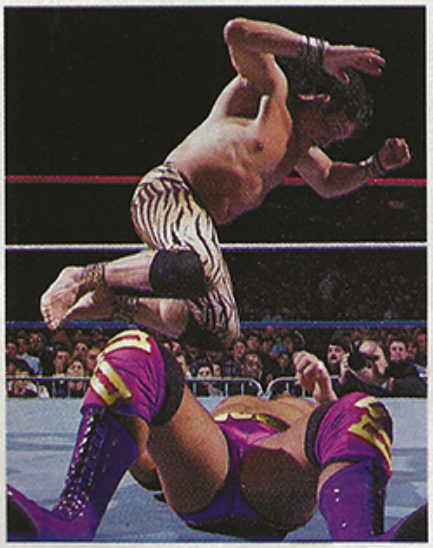


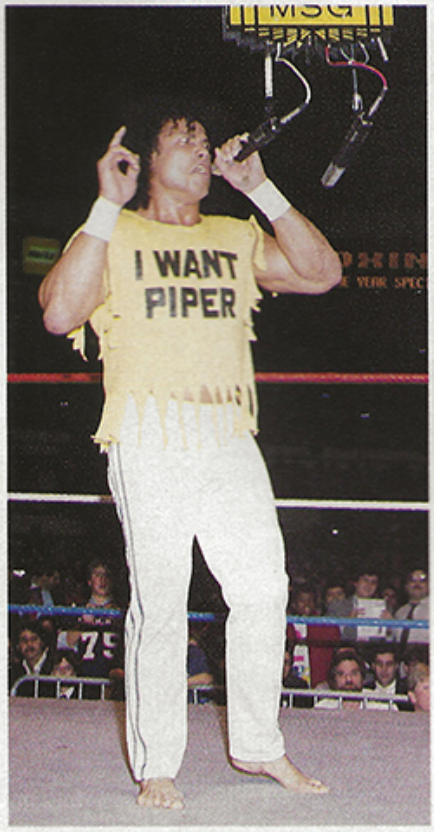
During the 1996 Hall of Fame banquet (above), Snuka hinted at his surprise return at the *Survivor Series*. The next night (right) in front of a packed Madison Square Garden, the Superfly took his last splash for the fans.

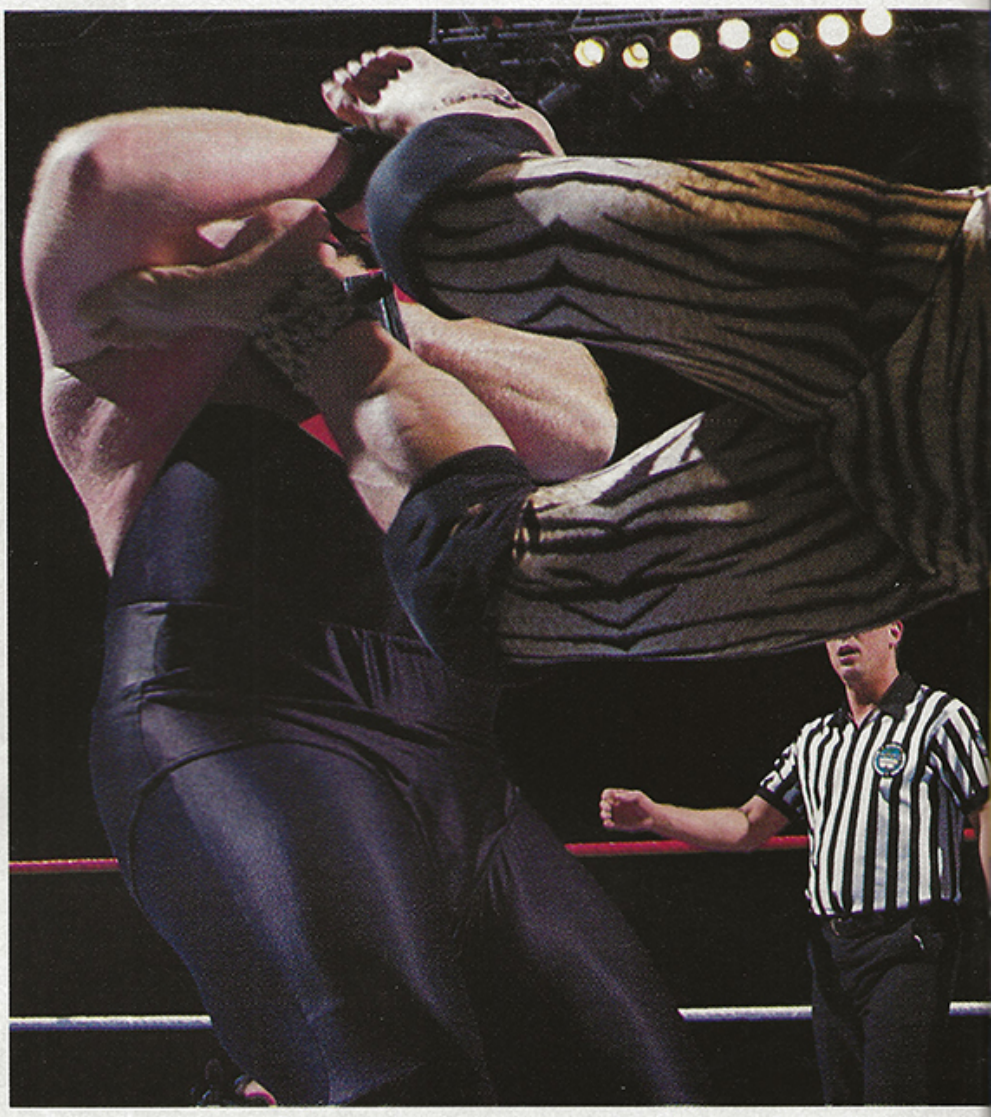
WF

When it came to going toe-to-toe with an adversary, no one was quite as dauntless. Snuka was the type of wrestler who would get busted up in a match, go back to the locker room for medical attention and then race back to the ring with bandages around his head.

He was first managed by another future Hall of Famer, Captain Lou





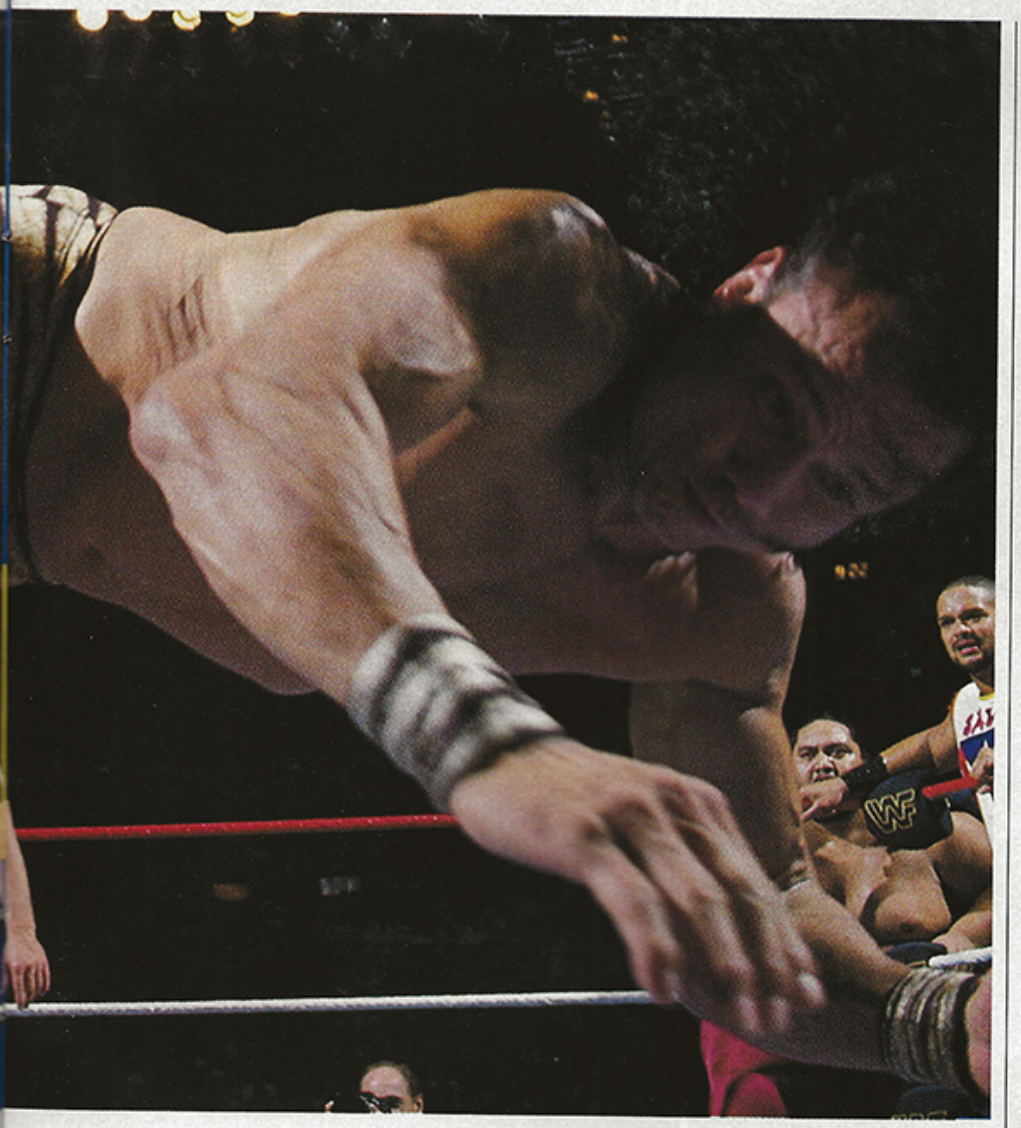


At the 1996 *Survivor Series* (top left) Jimmy Snuka bid farewell to the fans with one last leap on Razor Ramon. Ironically, it was in that same mecca arena (bottom left) that the Superfly made his debut 14 years ago. Also during the *Survivor Series* event (above), Snuka held his own against a much stronger competitor in Vader. Whether it is 1982 against Don Muraco (above right) or in his farewell match in the Garden, no fan will ever forget the original phenom of the Federation.

Albano, tagged "the maker of champions". It was Albano who signed the unforgettable cage match between Snuka and champion Bob Backlund at the Garden. In what could only be termed "a Hall of Fame moment", Snuka softened up Backlund, ascended to the top of the cage and dove down at the titlist. At the last second, Backlund moved. The Superfly smashed into the canvas and the champion retained the gold.

The Fijian later parted ways with Albano and challenged the Magnificent Muraco for the Intercontinental Title in the same building. In the closing moments of the match, the Superfly was surging and seemed certain to conquer his rival. But when Snuka hiptossed Muraco, the Magnificent One soared through the door of the pen, escaping from the cage and keeping the belt. The Superfly was so angry that he battered Muraco after the bell, even leaping—and landing—on him from the top of the enclosure.

It was Rowdy Roddy Piper who probably embarrassed Snuka more



than any other wrestler, taunting him on an installment of "Piper's Pit", the interview segment then seen on World Wrestling Federation broadcasts. Piper first mocked his guest's Polynesian heritage, and then—to drive the point home—cracked a coconut over Snuka's head, sparking a feud with the Superfly and his cousin, the Tonga Kid.

This and many other Snuka confrontations were recalled at the Hall of Fame dinner. Incredibly, he was inducted by none other than his old rival, Muraco. Throughout the night, fans and fellow wrestlers came by to shake Snuka's hand, and hark back on the good old days. Little did they realize that those days weren't quite over.

The next night, Faarooq, Razor Ramon, Diesel and Vader left the locker room for their *Survivor Series* match. One by one, their opponents were announced: Savio Vega, a son of the South Bronx who is immensely popular with the New York crowd; former World Wrestling Federation Champion Yokozuna; kaleidoscopic rookie Flash Funk. Then the team's mystery partner roared down the aisle. As they had in years past, the audience exploded for Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka.

If Snuka had slowed down since his days headlining Madison Square Garden, nobody could tell. Proving that he still fears no man, the Superfly went straight after the lethal Vader, bodyslamming the huge Mastodon from the Rocky Mountains. Later in the contest, Snuka chopped and bodyslammed Ramon, and then he scampered up the turnbuckles. The fans rose to their feet, shouting in ecstasy as the Hall of Famer flattened Razor with the Superfly Leap and eliminated him from the match.

But some things never change. As soon as the pinfall was registered, Diesel came up behind Snuka, whacking him with a steel chair. As the referee desperately sought to keep control of the action, the grapplers flooded the ring, ripping into each other until the arbiter had no choice but to declare the contest a double disqualification.

Other wrestlers have spent the day after a Hall of Fame induction celebrating in an upscale restaurant or departing for a relaxing vacation. Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka rumbled in the ring at Madison Square Garden, then nursed his throbbing wounds in the locker room. Another man would concentrate on the pain. The Superfly saw only the pleasure. ■

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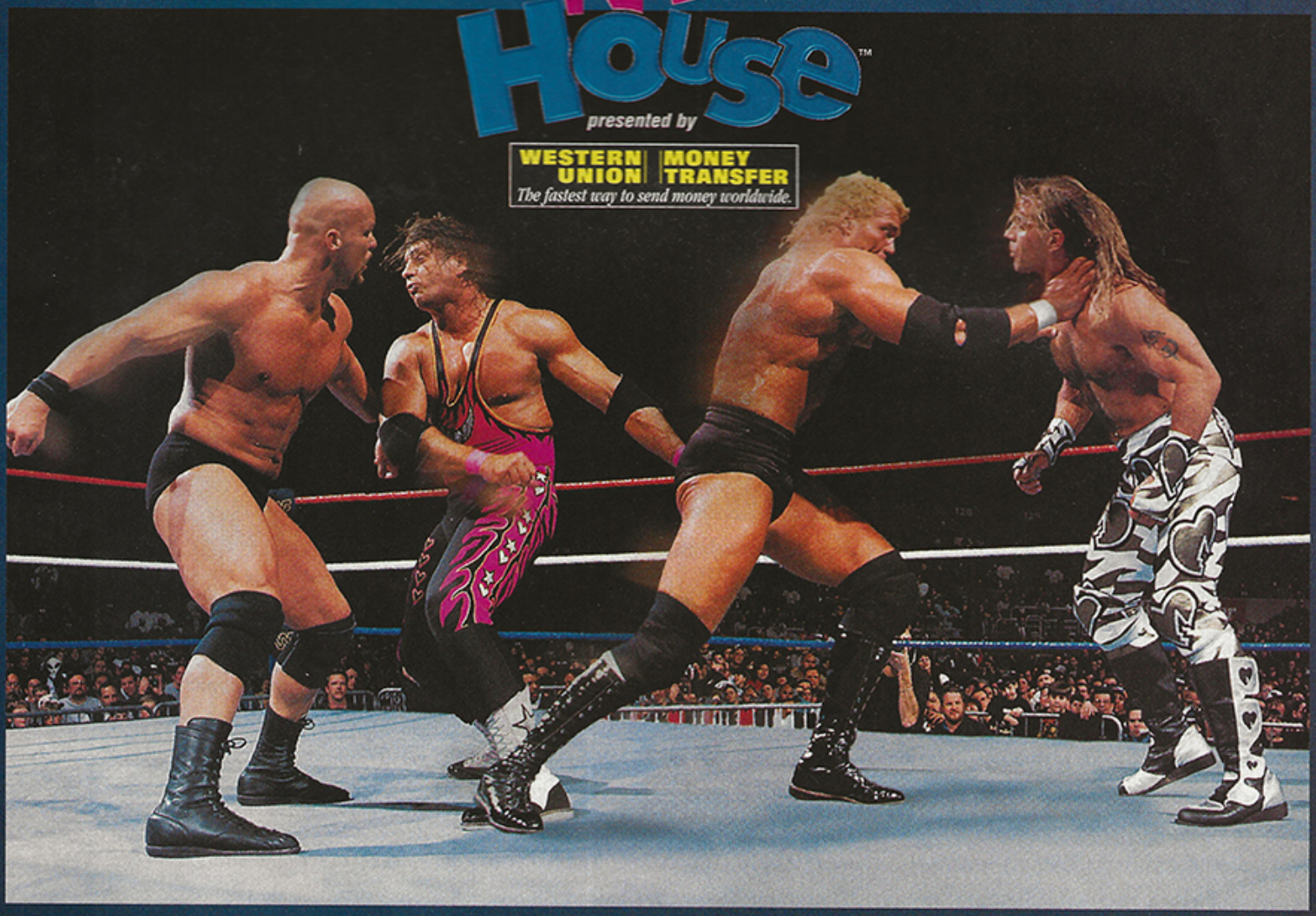

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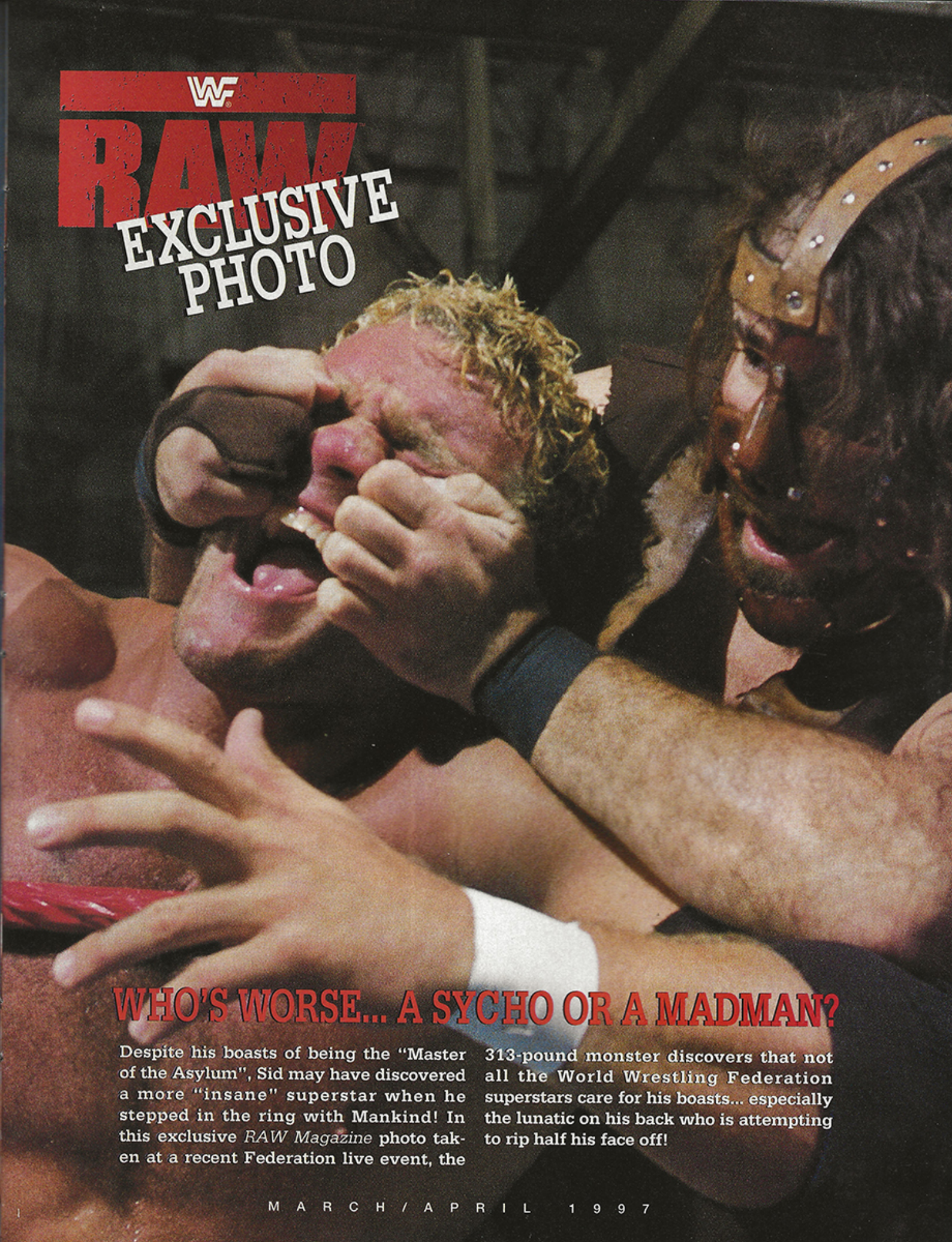


WHO'S WORSE... A SYCHO OR A MADMAN?

Despite his boasts of being the "Master of the Asylum", Sid may have discovered a more "insane" superstar when he stepped in the ring with Mankind! In this exclusive *RAW Magazine* photo taken at a recent Federation live event, the 313-pound monster discovers that not all the World Wrestling Federation superstars care for his boasts... especially the lunatic on his back who is attempting to rip half his face off!

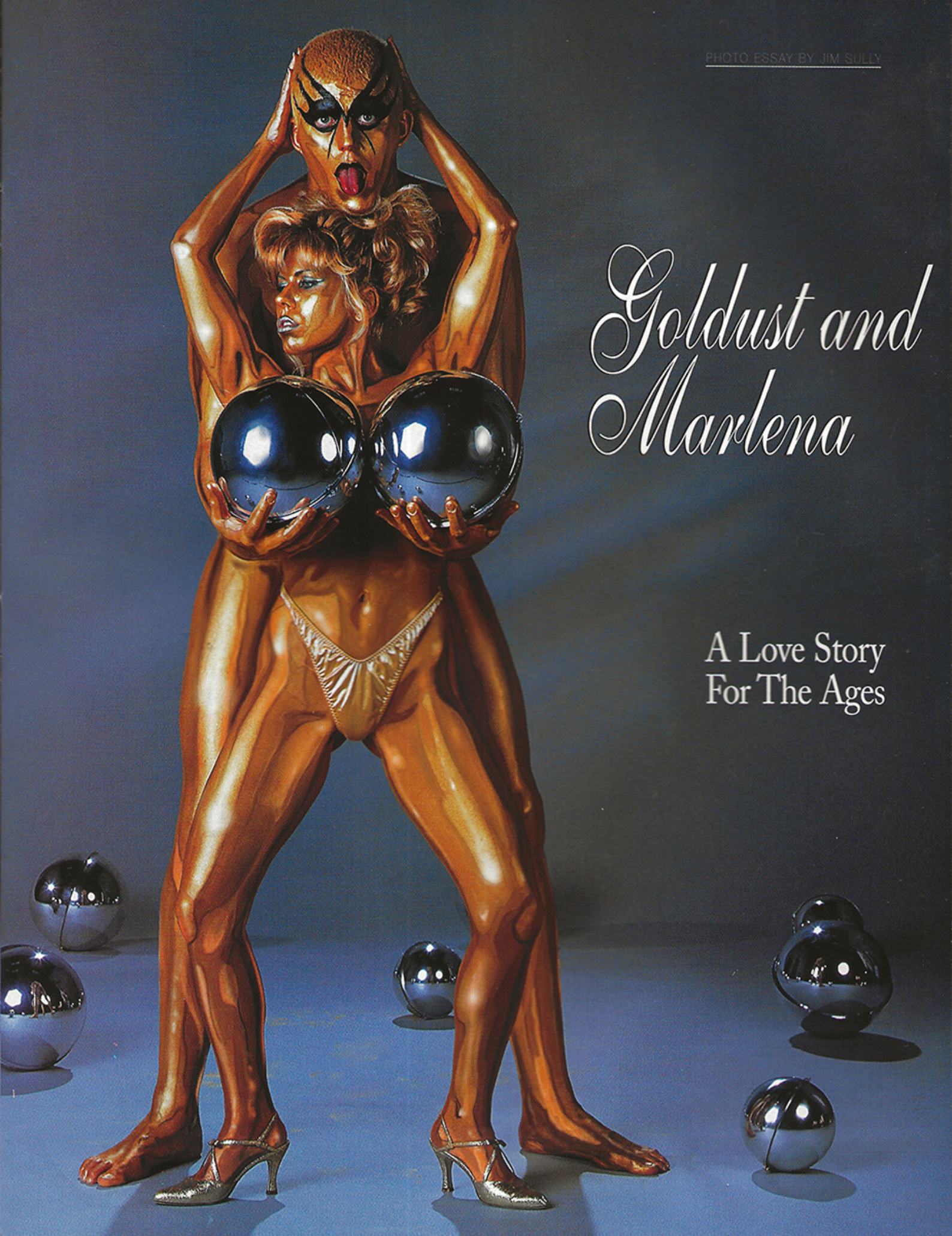
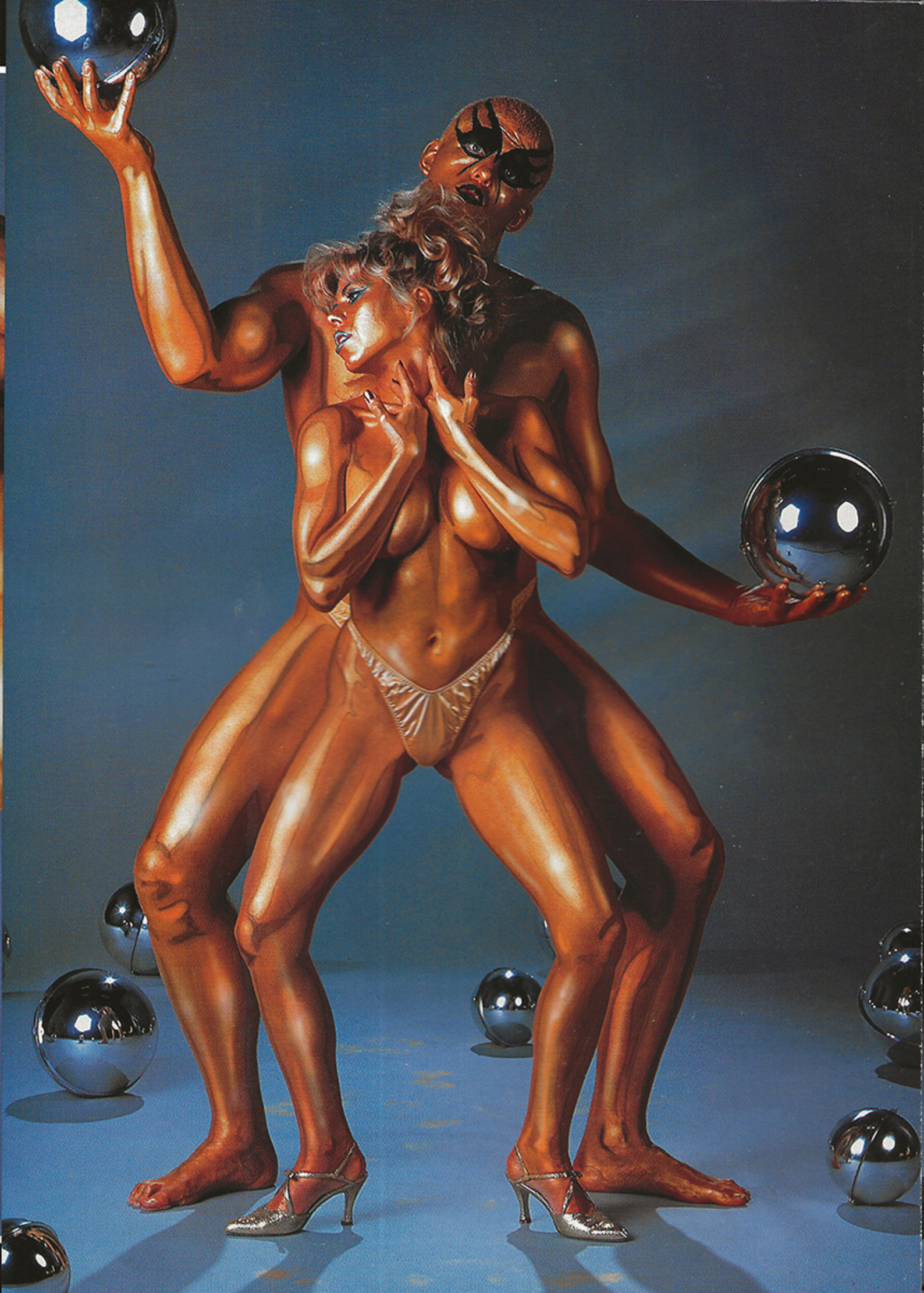


PHOTO ESSAY BY JIM SULLY

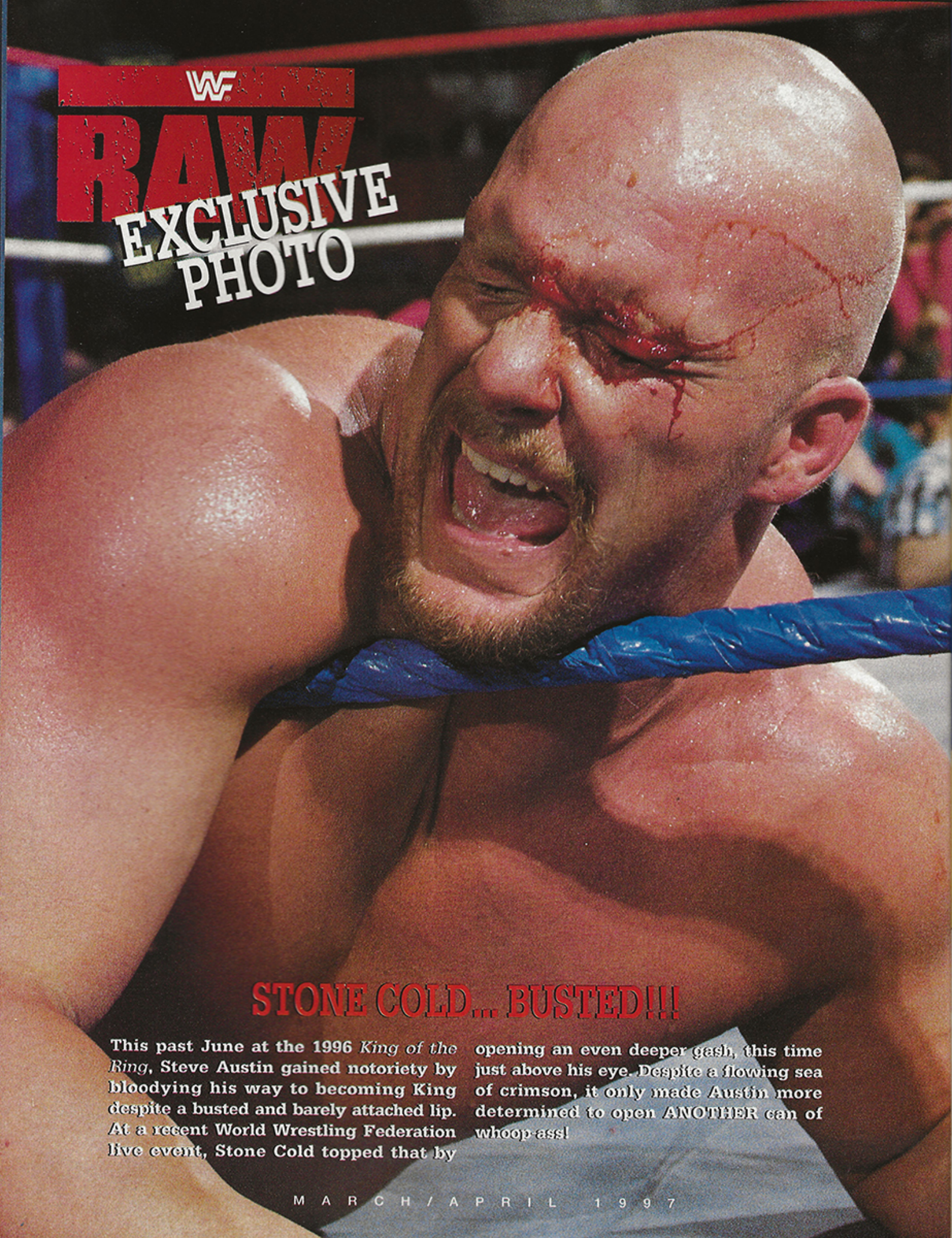
Goldust and Marlena

A Love Story For The Ages



A Love Story For The Ages

Goldust and Marlena



WF RAW

EXCLUSIVE PHOTO

STONE COLD... BUSTED!!!

This past June at the 1996 *King of the Ring*, Steve Austin gained notoriety by bloodying his way to becoming King despite a busted and barely attached lip. At a recent World Wrestling Federation live event, Stone Cold topped that by opening an even deeper gash, this time just above his eye. Despite a flowing sea of crimson, it only made Austin more determined to open ANOTHER can of whoop-ass!

THE FIGURE FOUR

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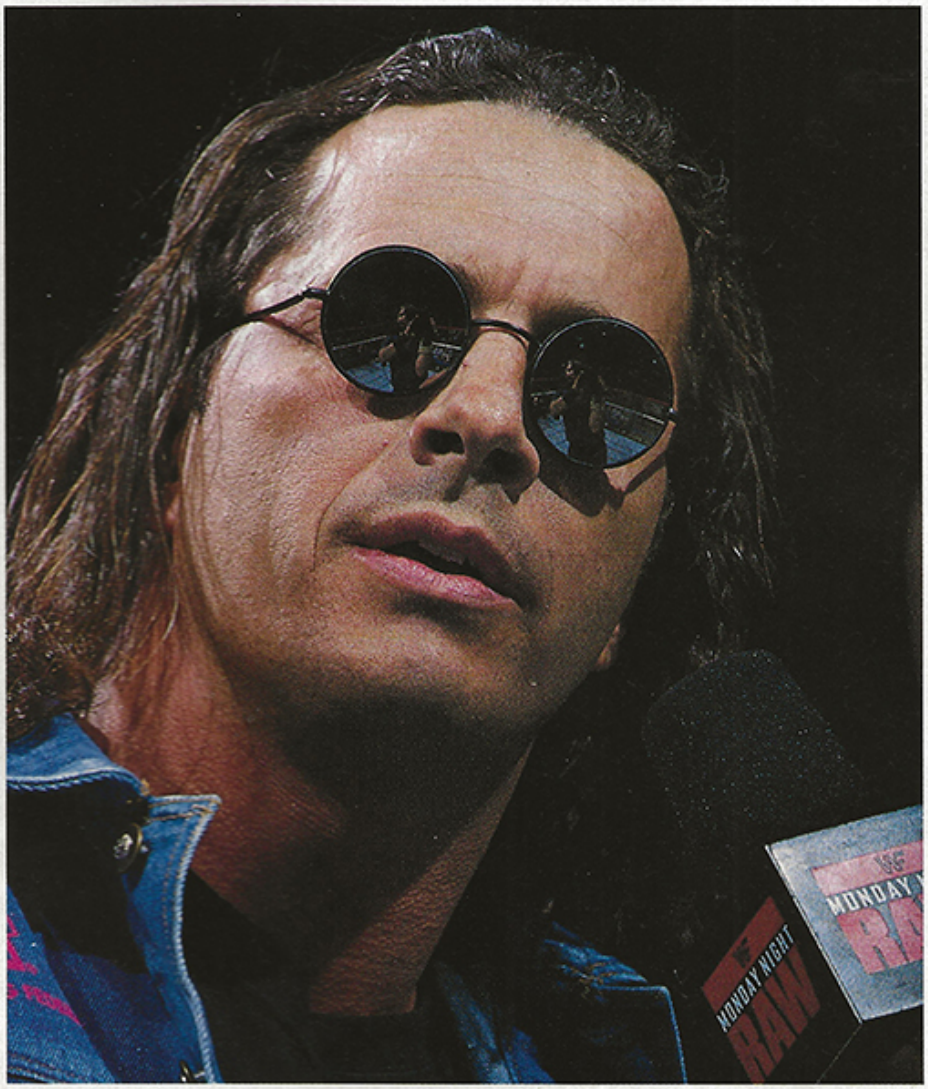
A703XX

I Tried to Say "I Love You"... But The Words Got in The Way

BY VINCE RUSSO

Bret vs. Shawn

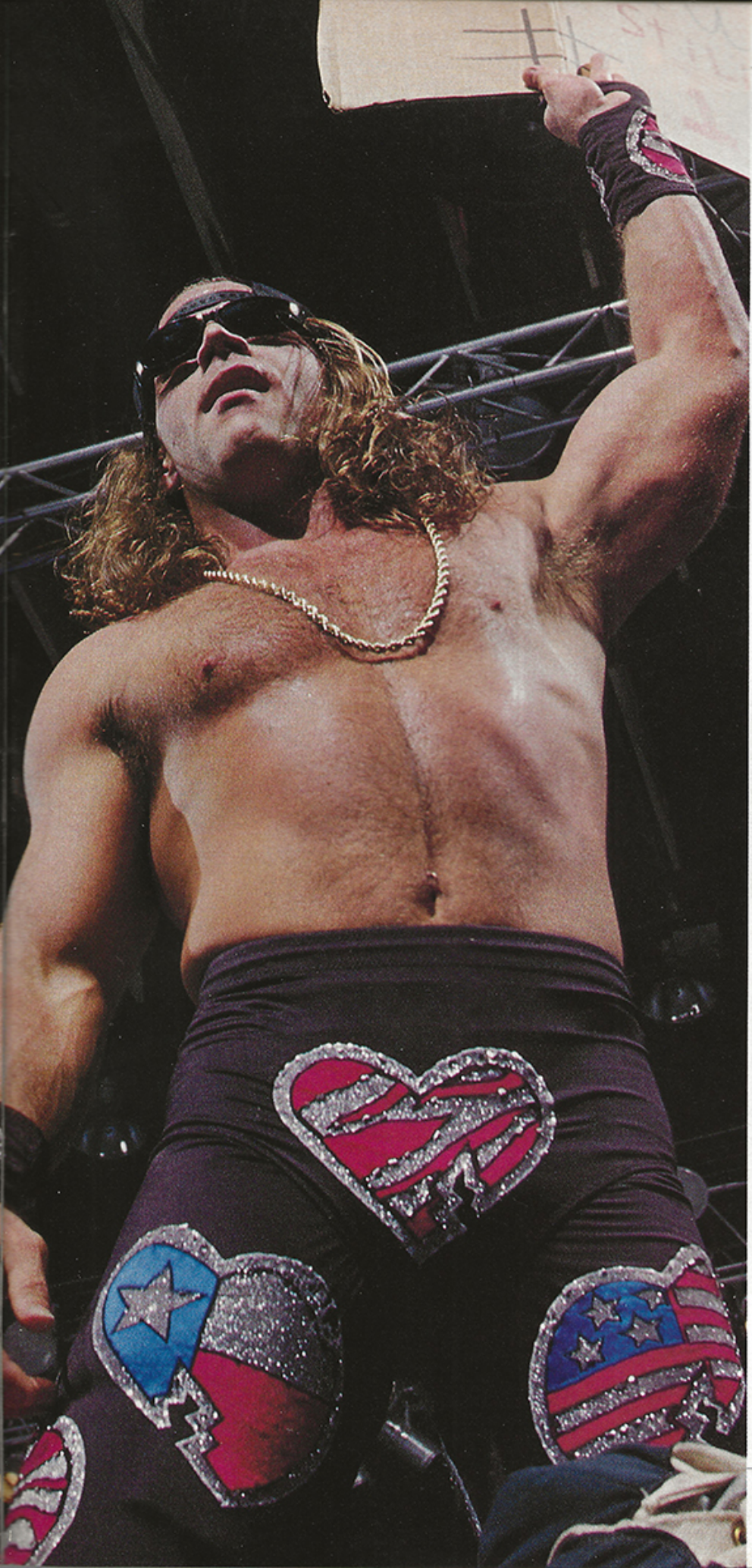


The very night that Bret Hart returned to the Federation ring on *Monday Night RAW*, he had some choice words concerning his "innermost feelings" about the Heartbreak Kid Shawn Michaels.

BRET on SHAWN: "I have a lot of concerns about the 'message' of Shawn Michaels. I don't really like his message and I never did. When I lost (*WrestleMania XII*), again I felt like the wrong man had won... and the wrong man had lost."

SHAWN on BRET: "As far as a 'message' is concerned, quite honestly, I don't consider it my job to send 'messages' to anybody. What I do is go out and work as hard as I can for myself and for the people who come to watch me. The only 'message' I think I send is hard work. This is what I choose to do for a living, and this is what I thoroughly enjoy. I learned a long time ago that I'm not going to satisfy everybody all the time, so my biggest concern is being concerned with what I think, and what the people around me who love me think. Other individual superstars? Well, everybody has their opinions and that's fine, but I'm too old and too tired to address every one of them."

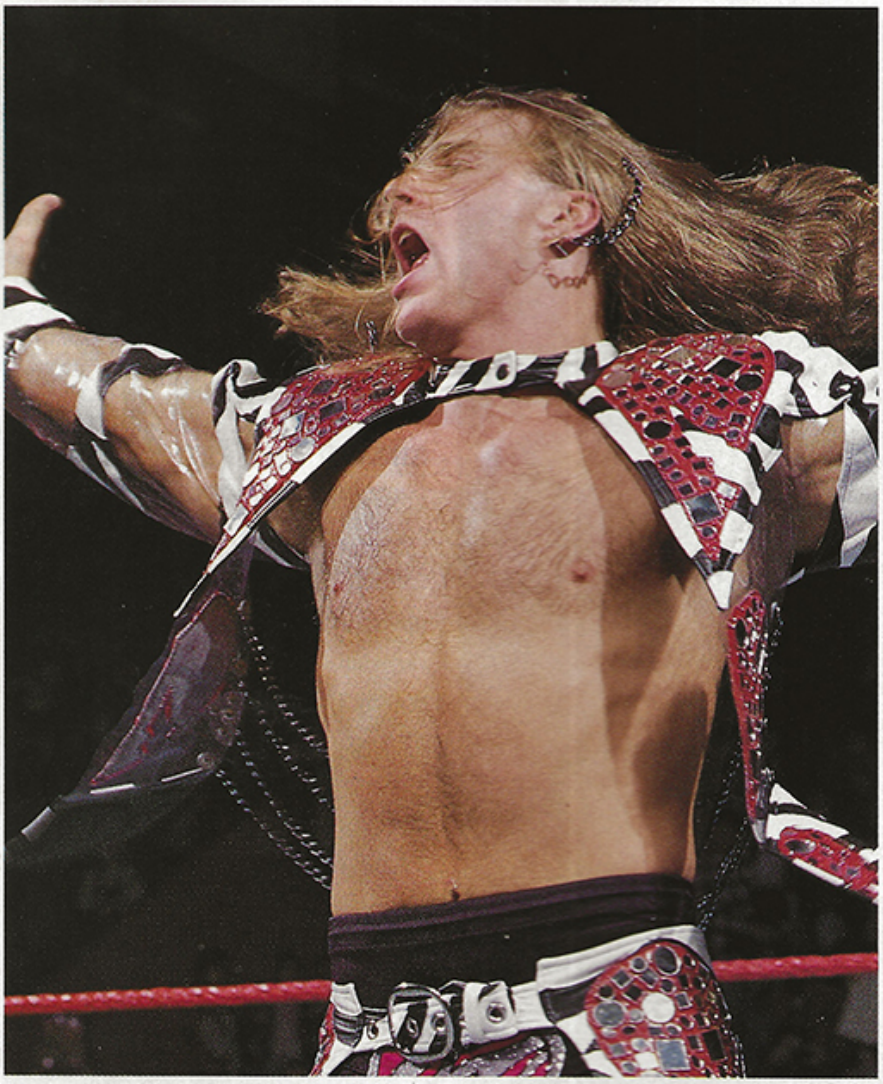
BRET on SHAWN: "In contrast to me... there's Shawn. For example, in the *Royal Rumble*, I think that's where it really started to eat away at me. He won the *Royal Rumble* and was doing his dance, and he proceeded to pull his pants down so low that I found it very 'distasteful'... let's just put it that way. I thought that was a really bad message. I know that my kids are watching, and my kids look up to this guy and he just pulled his pants down in front of everybody. That's kind of where it started. From that point on, I just started to view Shawn more



Shawn has no bones about admitting that he and the Hit Man are two different personalities. However, what he takes exception to is Bret's comments on how he sends the "wrong message" to children.

and more as a guy who had very little principle, and was not a great role model. You know, in basketball you have Dennis Rodman... in wrestling you have Shawn Michaels."

SHAWN on BRET: "And, if I'm supposed to be offended by being compared to Dennis Rodman... pardon me if I'm not. As far as me stripping and dancing before and after a match, I do what I feel like doing because I'm having FUN. I've never lied about that to anyone. I don't make excuses for what I do, and the way that I live. I'm not comfortable with telling people that I'm a role model, that I'm a super hero, because quite frankly I don't think I have that right to label myself as that. I've seen superstar after superstar call themselves a role model and then fall short. I strongly suggest to Bret Hart, who I traveled with up and down these roads, to look into his closet and tell the world that there are no skeletons in it. If he can do that... then I guess he is a better role model than me. Again, my job as a superstar in the World Wrestling Federation is not to raise the children of the people around the world. I want them to enjoy what I do, but when I'm in the building, or when I leave the building... it's my time... it's my show. The thing is... I can't control a lot of what I do, I know that people would like to think that I can, but I just go on impulse. Bret and I are different when it comes to personalities. Bret doesn't have fun. He goes out there stone-faced, beats everybody up and



then wants to go home. I do this job because I love to do it... this was expected of Bret Hart. He grew up in this life and it was in his blood. If Bret weren't a wrestler and a world champion, quite frankly, I think maybe he and his family would have been disappointed... or perhaps have felt that he fell short. For me, it was a totally different ambition. I was on the outside looking in. If Bret Hart, and moms and dads and everybody else around the world are upset with what I do, then I apologize. But, I'm just out there having fun. Sometimes it does get away from me, but then again I'm not making any excuses. I take responsibility for all my actions."

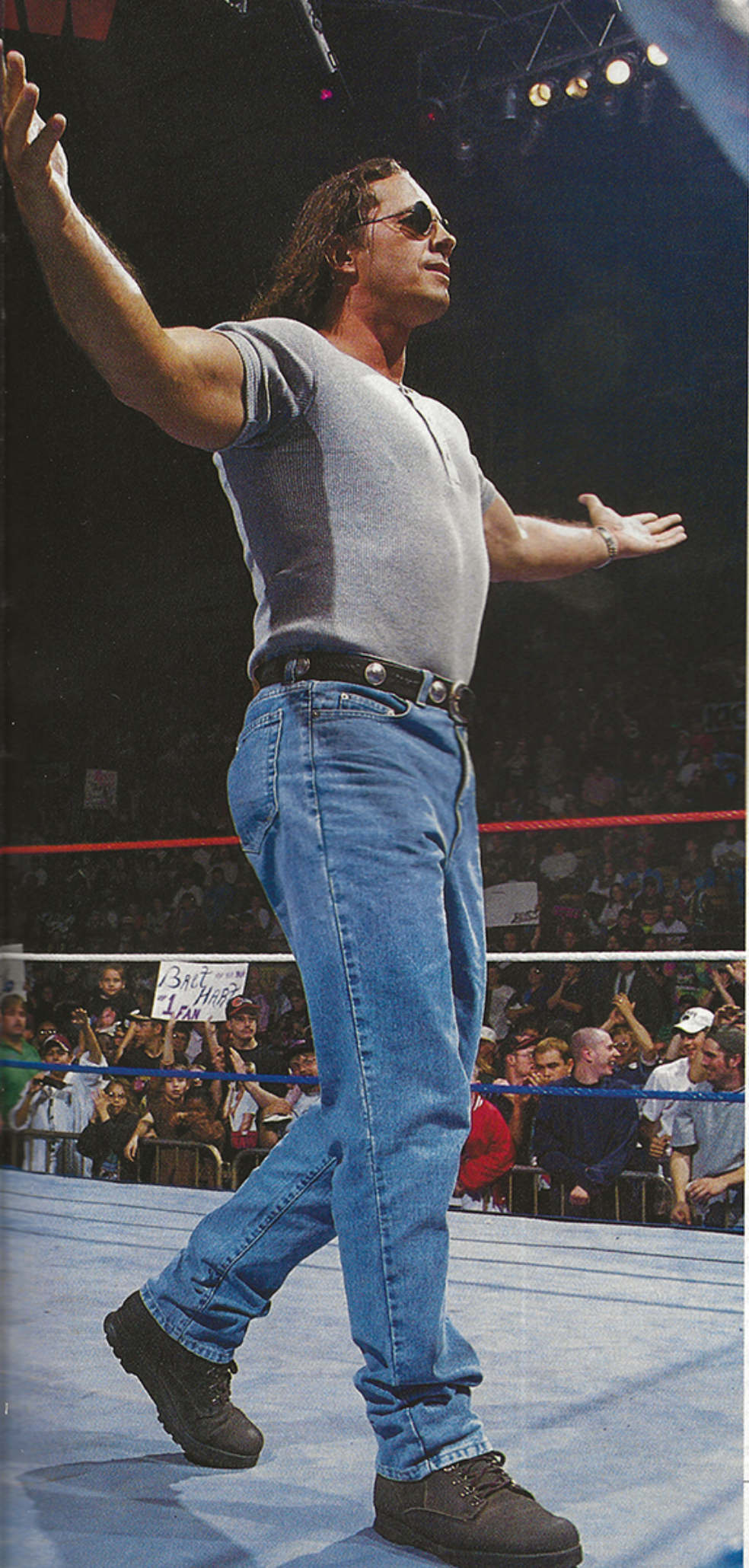
Michaels claims he doesn't concern himself with the comments made by the Hit Man. As far as he is concerned, the Heartbreak Kid never wanted anyone to "worship" him.

BRET on SHAWN: "I always prided myself on being a role model, and here's this guy who is having a snowball effect on the fans... the "Kliq"... people who are looking up to this guy and worshipping this guy. I just got to the point where I didn't think there was a whole lot to look up to."

SHAWN on BRET: "Bret Hart uses words like 'worship' and phrases like 'look up to', but you know what—I never really expected anyone to 'worship' anything about me. Again, Bret feels that he's a super hero. Bret feels that he's a role model because he's married and has four children. I accept Bret for being a different person than I am and I would like to think that he could be open-minded enough to accept me for being a different person than he is. I'm a single guy doing something that he genuinely loves to do, gets great enjoyment out of doing it and is going to continue to do it. As long as my mom and my dad feel that what I do and the way that I conduct myself is appropriate... you'll pardon me if I don't concern myself with what Bret Hart thinks of me. Again, Bret throws around phrases like 'role model' and 'super hero', and words like 'worship' and what not, but again, all I have to say is: can he honestly—HONESTLY—look me, or the World Wrestling Federation fans in the eye and say that he hasn't done something that maybe he's not too proud of?"

BRET on SHAWN: "Then I started seeing Shawn Michaels as this role model... or whatever it is he tries to sell as an influence to children. I really feel that the World Wrestling Federation started to abandon the kids that watch wrestling."

SHAWN on BRET: "You know it's funny. It's my understanding that the children's audience between 5-14 is higher now than it's been for over the last 10 years here in the World Wrestling Federation. And from what I understand, a lot of that has to do with me. What Bret Hart doesn't understand is that he's a 37-year-old ADULT who thinks like a 37-year-old ADULT. He doesn't think like little kids think. He may not like it, but Shawn Michaels



The Hit Man has always prided himself on being a positive role model. In his book, Shawn Michaels doesn't live up to those standards.

is a helluva lot closer to thinking on the same level as those children than Bret Hart will ever be. I've said all along that Shawn Michaels is nothing more than a very young boy in a man's body who has been given a gift by God. I go out there and I use that gift. I don't abuse it in any way, shape or form, and the people understand that. They understand what Shawn Michaels is doing. He's out there expressing himself... doing something that he loves. By knowing that I'm enjoying myself, they're enjoying themselves. I think what bothers Bret Hart is that maybe I have a better connection with more people in the building than he does. Again, maybe when I get married and have children I'll turn into my dad, too! I mean, that's what we do and Bret has to understand that! The way he sees life is not the same way that his son, Blade, sees life, whether he likes it or not."

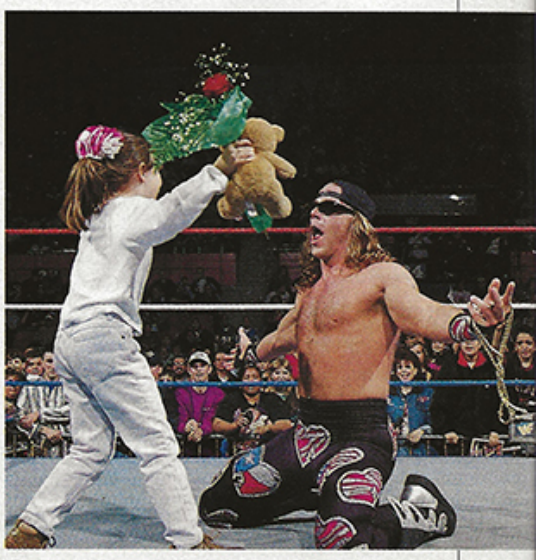
BRET on SHAWN; "You've got to understand, I can live with Shawn Michaels, I just won't endorse him. I won't shake his hand and say, 'Hey, this is a great guy.' You can forget that. But, that doesn't mean that he's not a great wrestler, or a great Champion. I think Shawn has done a great job as Champion. It's a tough grind, a tough job, and Shawn hasn't broken. He hasn't cracked and he's held his own. I have respect for him on that level. He's a great athlete... I just wish he would clean up his image a bit. I don't like his attitude. I think he's kind of obnoxious. I don't like the dancing, the whole thing—I just don't like it... but maybe that's me."

(Above) Throughout his career, Bret has heard the cheers of millions of fans. During his sabbatical from the ring, some of those same fans put their support in Shawn Michaels (below). Will this "war of the words" between Hart and Michaels force Federation fans to choose sides or is there possibly a happy medium?

SHAWN on BRET: "Of course Bret has the right to his own opinion, but what Bret finds to be obnoxious is just me having fun. Again, we're just two very different personalities. As much as I'd like his endorsement... I don't need it. Bret can continue to say bad things about me and take shots at me, but I will not, under any circumstances, drop down to his level and talk badly about him. I think Bret was a wonderful World Wrestling Federation Champion and if he wants to be a role model then I think that's great—the World Wrestling Federation can use lots of them. It's just not something that I feel comfortable with—telling the world that I'm a role model when I know that all I am is a regular human being who is very likely to make the same mistakes that they will. If Bret Hart, or any other sport figure, feels it's necessary to put themselves up on a pedestal, then feel free, but again, I've seen too many sports figures turn into disappointments. I just want everybody to know that I'm just as normal as they are... I just happen to be on TV every week."

BRET on SHAWN: "To be honest, right now I don't want to say that I'm 'the best there is, the best there was and the best there ever will be'... because right now I'm just not. I would have to say that right now Steve Austin is the best. (This comment was made prior to Bret's match against Austin at the *Survivor Series*.)

SHAWN on BRET: [Laughing] "Well, that's sort of a cut down to Bret himself because I beat Bret, and Steve Austin hasn't beaten me. But, in a way Bret's right—Steve Austin is a terrific 'wrestler', Bret Hart is a terrific 'wrestler', but what I think Bret has a real hard time dealing with is that this is 1997 and we're going into the year 2000. Nowadays it takes just a little bit more than just being a great 'wrestler' to be a head-turner in the World Wrestling Federation. I think there are a lot of things that make up a World Wrestling Federation Champion and 'wrestling' is a huge part of it... but it's not all of it. And, perhaps, maybe I cover more of the bases than anyone else in the World Wrestling Federation. Again, I respect what Bret has to say, but it has no factor in any way, shape or form, as to the way I will structure my life. Bret can be low key, and at times, quite honestly, quite boring, and if that's the way he wants to be, then that's fine. But I've waited a long time to be able to live my life, enjoy myself and walk around with a smile on my face, and now that I'm doing it, not Bret Hart or anyone is going to make me feel bad about it. I know that this is the World Wrestling Federation, and the fans might find some things hard to believe, but there is NOTHING more true than the fact that I am being who I am. If I live by the sword... then I'm going to die by the sword. If I'm man enough to do that—and I'm one with that— then the people around me should be one with that. I know my personality—I know I can be tough, arrogant, cocky, brash, but it's because I want to be. It all depends on the circumstances. One moment I can be really, really up... the next moment I can be really, really down. I cover both sides of the spectrum. I'm cool with that, and I hope that eventually everybody else can be cool with that! ■



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1997 WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION SLAMMY AWARD BALLOT

(Nominees represent the 1996 season)

Vote for only one nominee in each category

1996 WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION NEW SENSATION OF THE SQUARED CIRCLE

❑ Stone Cold Steve Austin ❑ Wildman Marc Mero ❑ Flash Funk
❑ Mankind ❑ Rocky Maivia

1996 MATCH OF THE YEAR

❑ Shawn Michaels / Mankind (*In Your House*) ❑ Bret Hart / Stone Cold Steve Austin (*Survivor Series*) ❑ Undertaker / Mankind (Boiler Room Brawl, *SummerSlam*)
❑ Savio Vega / Steve Austin (Caribbean Strap Match, *In Your House*)
❑ Shawn Michaels / Bret Hart (*WrestleMania XII*)

"1, 2, HE'S GOT HIM" (BEST FINISHING MANEUVER)

❑ Shawn Michaels' Sweet Chin Music ❑ Wildman Marc Mero's Wild Thing
❑ Sycho Sid's Powerbomb ❑ Steve Austin's Stone Cold Stunner
❑ Bret Hart's Sharpshooter

BEST CAREER CROSSOVER TO THE SQUARED CIRCLE

❑ Brakus from professional bodybuilder ❑ Mark Henry from Olympic powerlifter
❑ T.L. Hopper from plumber ❑ Rocky Maivia from University of Miami Football
❑ Clarence Mason from the courtroom

BEST HAIR DAY

❑ Steve Austin ❑ Bret Hart ❑ Hunter Hearst-Helmsley ❑ Mankind ❑ Shawn Michaels

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Address_____

City_____ **State**_____ **ZIP**_____

Age / Gender_____ **Male**_____ **Female**_____

Mail this ballot to: "SLAMMYS", P.O. Box 1395, Stamford, CT 06904-1395. To be counted, this ballot must be received no later than Friday, March 7, 1997.

Keep watching your favorite World Wrestling Federation television programs for more *"Slammy Award" categories*...more nominees...and more information on how *you* can join the World Wrestling Federation Superstars and celebrities who will be attending the glamorous "Slammy Awards" banquet and ceremony in Chicago during the *WrestleMania XIII* Weekend!

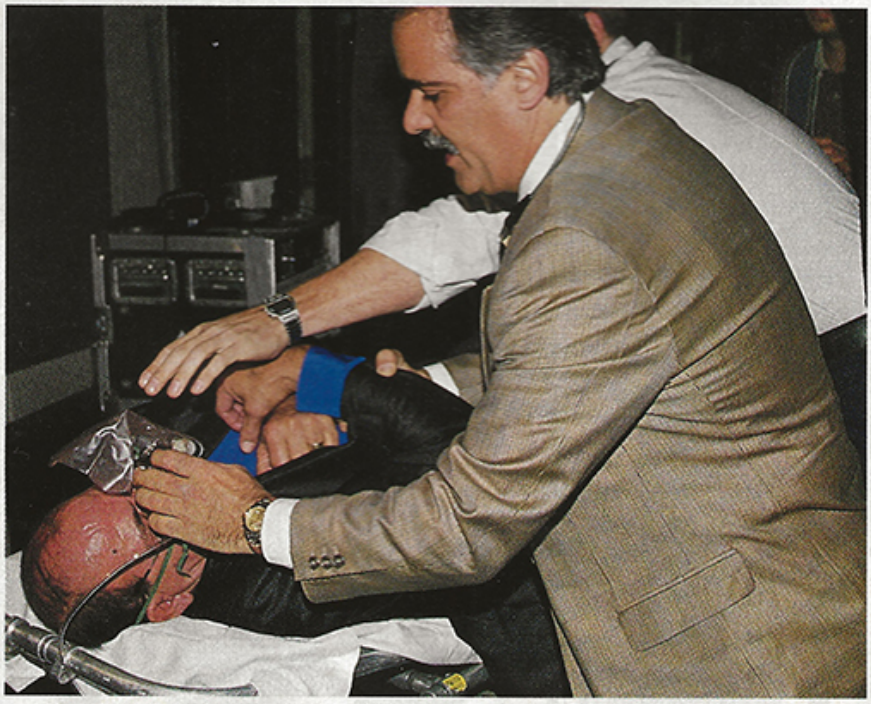
JOSE HOS

These photos were taken exclusively for the *Raw Magazine* by ace photographer Rich Freeda, just moments after the Sycho Sid/ Shawn Michaels war at last November's *Survivor Series.*

By
Vince Russo

PITALIZED!

(ABOVE) An emotionally distraught Shawn Michaels looks to the medics for help, as his mentor, Jose Lothario, withers in pain. (BELOW) Oxygen is given to Lothario as he struggles to breath on his own.



After being viciously attacked at the *Survivor Series* by a Sycho wielding a 50-plus-pound camera, Shawn Michaels' mentor, Jose Lothario, helplessly crumbled from the ring apron and crashed to the concrete floor. Clutching his chest, the Mexican legend withered in extreme pain until his protégé was able to rush to his aid. Unfortunately, lightning was to strike once more. Losing all focus on the matter at hand, an unsuspecting Michaels was soon to be the next victim of Sid's EXTREME close-up, as the "West Memphis Monster" knocked him out cold, courtesy of the BAM CAM, as Shawn kneeled over his fallen friend.

After Sid covered Michaels, thus crowning himself the new World Wrestling Federation Champion, Freeda

followed Jose and Shawn back to the locker room area to document the fate of Jose.

Once safe from the Sinister Sycho, Jose and Shawn were joined by Lothario's concerned son, Pete, as medical technicians worked frantically and feverishly on the fallen legend. Refusing hospital attention that evening, Jose flew home to San Antonio early the next morning with Shawn and Pete close to his side. Still refusing to go to the hospital once at home, the proud Jose remained in serious pain until he finally gave in to the wishes of Shawn and his family and agreed to seek out the proper medical attention.

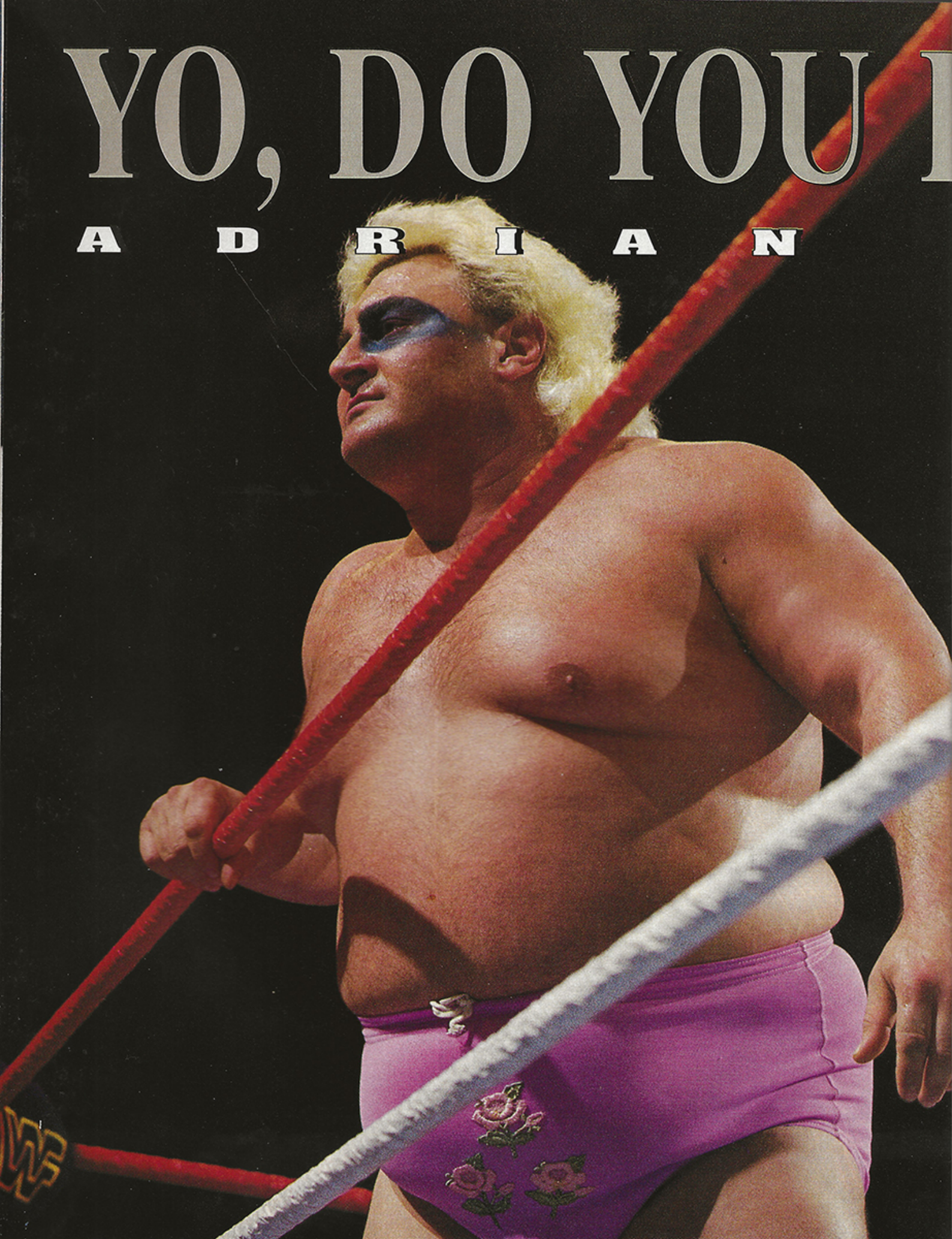
After being carefully examined by his physician, the diagnosis was that Jose had suffered some damage to his heart, and that an angioplasty might be necessary in order to guarantee a full recovery. Following those words, a tearful Jose informed Shawn Michaels that he thought it would be the best thing for both of them if Jose officially retired as his manager.

But not before that one last hurrah in their backyard... the Alamodome. ■

(Above) Medics frantically remove Jose from the ringside area via stretcher, while (below) Shawn and Jose's son Pete arrive at the side of the fallen legend only moments later.

YO, DO YOU

ADRIAN



REMEMBER...

ADONIS?

BY KEITH ELLIOT GREENBERG

HE WAS CRUEL, CUNNING AND COLORFUL, A BRAWLER AS STREETWISE AS SAVIO VEGA, AS GIFTED AS OWEN HART AND AS FLAMBOYANT AS GOLDUST. ADRIAN ADONIS WAS A STAR IN BOTH THE U.S. AND JAPAN, A *WRESTLEMANIA* STANDOUT, A FORMER WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPION. HAD HE NOT DIED TRAGICALLY YOUNG, HE MIGHT STILL BE A FORCE IN THE MAT WARS TODAY.

Back in the days when wrestling organizations were divided into regional territories, Adonis shone in every area he visited: British Columbia, west Texas, the Pacific Northwest and southern California—sometimes billed as Adrian Adonis, other times as Gorgeous Keith Franks.

In the now defunct American Wrestling Association (AWA), he joined forces with another flashy character, future World Wrestling Federation color commentator Jesse "The Body" Ventura. The two thought alike, and—fueled by their coinciding philosophies—snared the AWA Tag Team Championship. Sensing that Adonis was destined for big things, World Wrestling Federation promoters signed him up in 1982.

Today, many younger fans wrongly believe that Adonis and Ventura captured the World Wrestling Federation Tag Team Title. But the reality is that even though they made a respectable run for the belts, the gold never ended up around their waists. But Adonis did come close—on many occasions—to wresting away the biggest prize in the sport of kings, the World Wrestling Federation Heavyweight Championship, from Bob Backlund.

Adorable? Whereas that was indeed questionable, one thing certainly wasn't—in his prime, Adrian Adonis was one of the most dangerous and feared wrestlers in the business.

His exploits in the World Wrestling Federation brought Adonis international acclaim. Managed by "Classy" Freddie Blassie, Adrian headed to Japan, where he became a major name—not so much because of his explosive personality, but his often overlooked ring expertise.

It was in the Land of the Rising Sun that he met the late Dirty Dick Murdoch. Unlike Ventura, Murdoch was the reverse of his partner. After all, Murdoch was a rough and tumble Texan, while Adonis fancied himself as a wise guy from the New York streets. But in this case, opposites attracted. Calling themselves the "North South Connection", the duo stormed the World Wrestling Federation and promptly took control of it, winning the Tag Team Championship that had evaded Adonis in the past.

Still, as successful as he was in tag team competition, Adonis had a deep need to command the spotlight all by himself. He chose an extreme way to accomplish this end, discarding the black trunks and leather jacket he'd worn for much of his career for hot pink tights, a garter belt and bleached blond hair. Managed by Jimmy Hart, the wrestler now proclaimed himself to be "Adorable" Adrian Adonis.

In 1987, Rowdy Roddy Piper took a break from hosting "Piper's Pit", his interview segment on World Wrestling Federation broadcasts. While Piper was on hiatus making a

YEAH, THEY'RE COMING AND I CAN'T WAIT.

WHO? WHAT? WHERE? WHEN? WHY?

Find out more in future issues of the World Wrestling Federation Magazine!!!

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION®

In what turned out to be one of his greatest matches in a shortened career, Adrian Adonis took "Rowdy" Roddy Piper to the limit before being edged out at *WrestleMania III*.

movie, Adonis filled the time slot with an outrageous question and answer session dubbed "The Flower Shop". When Piper returned, he reacted furiously, raging onto the set of "The Flower Shop" and destroying it.

The two squared off at *WrestleMania III*, in a wild match that is still remembered as a classic. Piper was at his most unruly in this confrontation, and Adonis and Hart tried every trick. At one point, Hart mounted the top rope, attempting to hurl himself onto Piper. But the Rowdy

The "sleeper" was Adonis' patented finishing hold throughout his illustrious World Wrestling Federation career. Many of his squared circle victims would later say that Adrian had a way of "first beating you up, then putting you to sleep, before you even knew what hit you!"

Scot grabbed the intruder and heaved him onto Adonis.

The Adorable One lost this contest. But even more disheartening, wrestler Brutus Beefcake entered the ring at the end of the match, earning himself the nickname "The Barber" by shaving Adrian's head.

The defeat was a humiliating one, and Adonis took a break from the World Wrestling Federation and prepared to restructure and relaunch his career. Returning to Japan, he overwhelmed opponents and dazzled fans with hot moves—maneuvers that were all the more remarkable because Adonis was a man who struggled with his weight. There were discussions about reforming his tag team with Murdoch, plowing over the other tandems in Japan and possibly taking another shot at the World Wrestling Federation Tag Team Title.

In the interim, Adrian tested his skills by touring eastern Canada for a small promotion there. On July 4, 1988, Adonis was in a van with two other wrestlers, David "The Canadian Wildman" McKigney and Pat Kelly. Suddenly, a moose crossed in front of the vehicle, and the van swerved off the highway into a lake. The 34-year-old Adonis was thrown from the van and rushed to the hospital where he later died.

Fans would never find out if the Adorable One had what it takes to wage another assault on the World Wrestling Federation, and once again use his vast ring aptitude and immeasurable eccentricities to position himself as a major player. ■

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4 Crowin' With Cornette
The gospel according to the walking blue light special... or so he would want you to believe!

5 Federation Challenge Game
Take on a Federation Superstar. If you emerge victorious, you'll win a prize!

6 The Ross Report
Jim Ross has all the news and behind the scenes info on Federation happenings!

7 French/Canadian Report with Ray Rougeau
The latest Federation news from the Great White North!

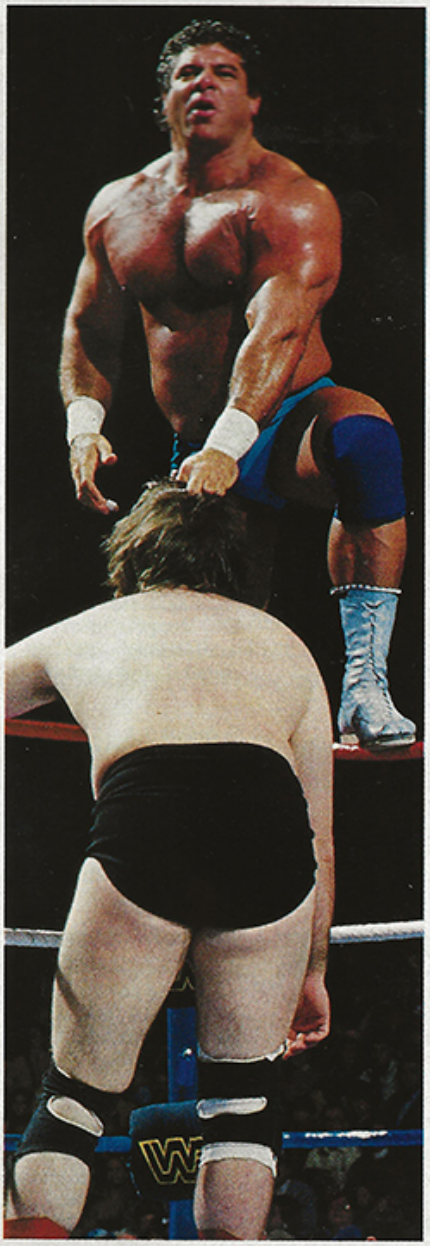
8 Post Match Interviews
During every Federation pay-per-view event, hear comments from the winners and losers of the matches that take place!

HISTORY OF THE WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

September 1979
Pat Patterson becomes the first World Wrestling Federation Intercontinental Champion.

Federation Fact: Patterson defeats Ted DiBiase in a tournament in Rio de Janeiro to win the belt.

April 21, 1980
Ken Patera (New York, NY)



December 8, 1980
Pedro Morales (New York, NY)

June 20, 1981
Don "The Rock" Muraco (Philadelphia, PA)

November 23, 1981
Pedro Morales (New York, NY)

January 22, 1983
Don "The Rock" Muraco (New York, NY)

February 11, 1984
Tito Santana (Boston, MA)

September 24, 1984
Greg "The Hammer" Valentine (London, ONT)

July 6, 1985
Tito Santana (Baltimore, MD)

February 8, 1986
Randy "Macho Man" Savage (Boston, MA)

March 29, 1987
Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat (Pontiac, MI)

June 2, 1987
Honky Tonk Man (Buffalo, NY)

August 29, 1988
The Ultimate Warrior (New York, NY)

Federation Fact: The Ultimate Warrior substituted for Brutus "The Barber" Beefcake, who was unable to compete that night at *SummerSlam*.

April 2, 1989
Ravishing Rick Rude (Atlantic City, NJ)

August 28, 1989
The Ultimate Warrior (East Rutherford, NJ)

April 1, 1990
The World Wrestling Federation Intercontinental Title is declared VACANT after the Ultimate Warrior wins the Federation Title from Hulk Hogan.

April 23, 1990
Mr. Perfect (Austin, TX)

Federation Fact: Perfect defeats Tito Santana in an eight-man tournament to determine a new Intercontinental Champion.

August 27, 1990
The Texas Tornado (Philadelphia, PA)

November 19, 1990
Mr. Perfect (Rochester, NY)

August 26, 1991
Bret "Hit Man" Hart (New York, NY)

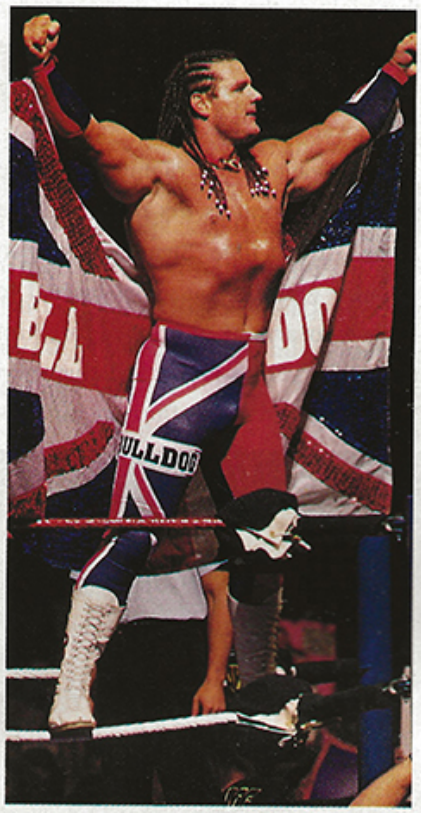
January 17, 1992
The Mountie (Springfield, MA)

January 19, 1992
"Rowdy" Roddy Piper (Albany, NY)

INTERCONTINENTAL TITLE HISTORY

April 5, 1992
Bret "Hit Man" Hart (Indianapolis, IN)

August 29, 1992
The British Bulldog (London, ENG)



October 27, 1992
Shawn Michaels (Terre Haute, IN)

May 17, 1993
Marty Jannetty (New York, NY)

June 6, 1993
Shawn Michaels (Albany, NY)

September 1993: The World Wrestling Federation Intercontinental Title is declared VACANT after Shawn Michaels briefly leaves the World Wrestling Federation.

September 27, 1993
Razor Ramon (New Haven, CT)

Federation Fact: Razor defeats The Model Rick Martel in a match to determine the new champion.

April 13, 1994
Diesel (Rochester, NY)

August 29, 1994
Razor Ramon (Chicago, IL)

January 22, 1995
Jeff Jarrett (Tampa, FL)

May 19, 1995
Razor Ramon (Montreal, QUE)

May 21, 1995
Jeff Jarrett (Trois-Rivieres, QUE)

July 23, 1995
Shawn Michaels (Nashville, TN)

October 22, 1995 Federation Fact: Shawn Michaels is forced to give up the title after he is physically unable to defend it against Dean Douglas that night. Federation president Gorilla Monsoon orders a forfeit of the belt to Dean Douglas. Just minutes later, Douglas loses the title to Razor Ramon.

January 21, 1996
Goldust (Fresno, CA)

April 1, 1996 Federation Fact: The World Wrestling Federation Title is declared VACANT after a controversial decision between Goldust and Savio Vega on *Monday Night RAW* (San Bernardino). That night a rematch is held in which Goldust reclaims the title.

June 23, 1996
Ahmed Johnson (Milwaukee, WI)

August 1996 Federation Fact: The World Wrestling Federation Intercontinental Title is declared VACANT after Ahmed Johnson is injured at the hands of Faarooq. A tournament is announced to declare a new champion.

September 23, 1996
Wildman Marc Mero (Hershey, PA)

Federation Fact: Mero defeats Faarooq in the tournament final on *RAW* to claim the title.

October 21, 1996
Hunter Hearst-Helmsley (Ft. Wayne, IN)

A special thank you goes to Royal Duncan and Gary Will whose *Wrestling Title Histories—Third Edition*, published by Archeus Communications in Canada, provided us with valuable information while compiling this list.

THE NIGHT THE BELT CHANGED HANDS

Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat vs. Honky Tonk Man

BY BILL BANKS

June 2, 1987 (Buffalo, NY)

"Undeserving of an Intercontinental Title Shot."

These were the words of an agitated Vince McMahon as the obnoxious challenger from Memphis, Tennessee, shook and gyrated his way into the ring.

Vince McMahon was slapping those very words on the Honky Tonk Man, the Elvis-like impersonator who was about to challenge Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat for the Intercontinental Title. However, the announcer's label of "undeserving" wasn't all that harsh at the time. You see, virtually every match Honky had won to climb the ladder of the World Wrestling Federation was by cheating. The fans realized it, Federation officials knew about it, and even Honky laughed at it! It WAS true, the man didn't deserve to be in the ring that night as the number one contender against one of the sport's best at the time. But like it or not, he was having his shot at glory.

The Dragon came running down the runway as soon as his music hit the arena. At that time, Steamboat was so popular with the fans that he had to have two armed guards escort him to the ring. Once inside, the champion was blindsided with a flurry of punches

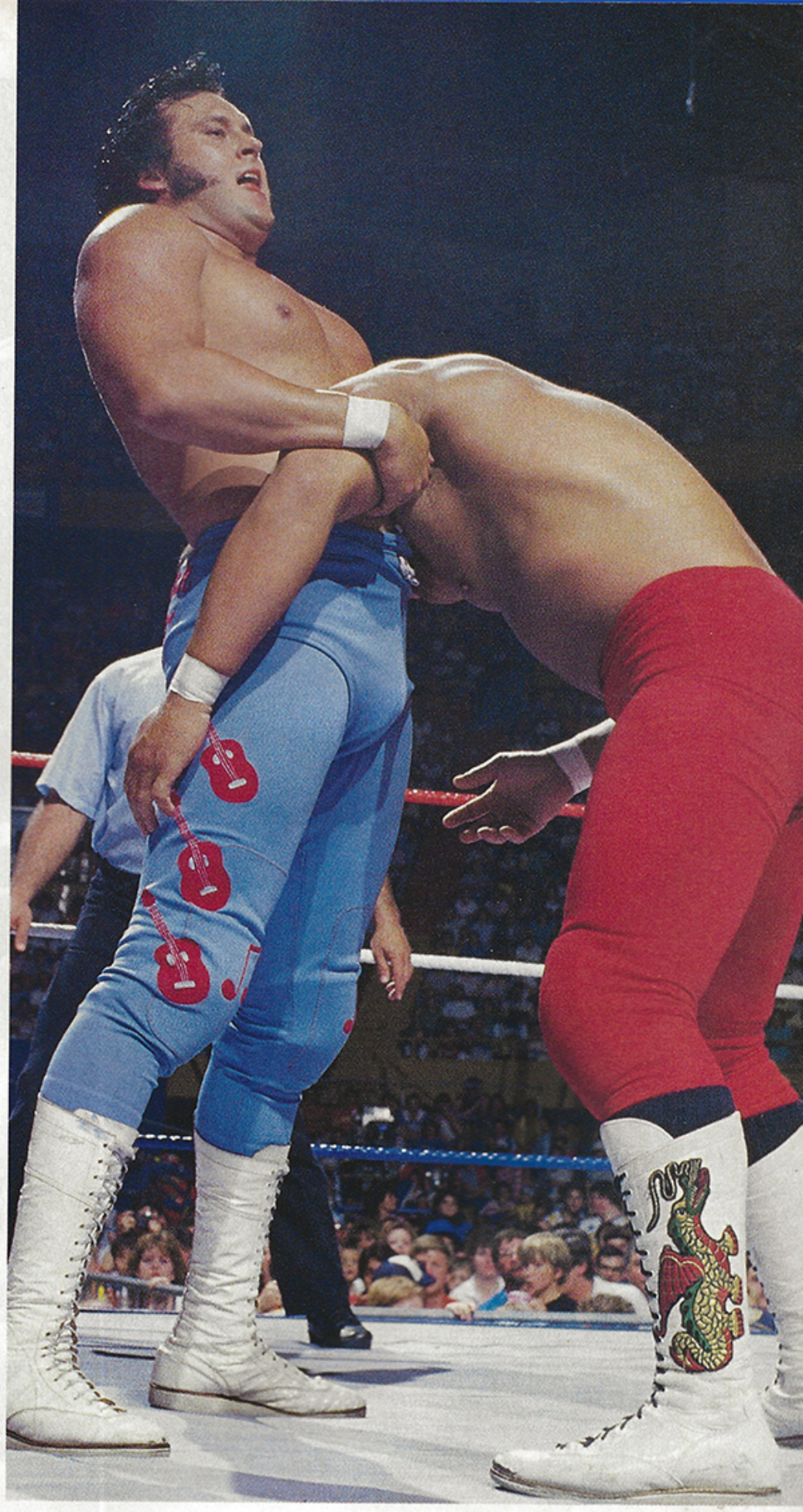
(ABOVE) Honky Tonk wasted no time in attacking Steamboat. As soon as the bell sounded, he slammed the Dragon's injured neck into the turnbuckle. (RIGHT) Honky Tonk sets Steamboat up for the Shake, Rattle and Roll—a move that was almost outlawed by Federation officials!

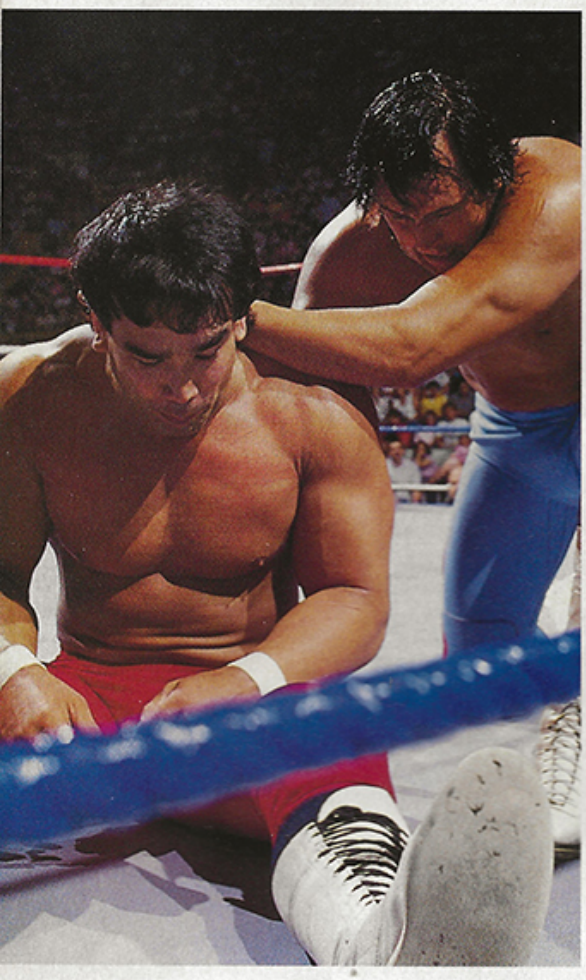
to his head. Honky clearly wasn't wasting any time, and he went after Steamboat for the quick kill. Honky then grabbed the Dragon by his black locks and tossed him over the top rope. However, Ricky skimmed the cat and at the same time delivered a boot across the face of Honky's manager, Jimmy Hart.

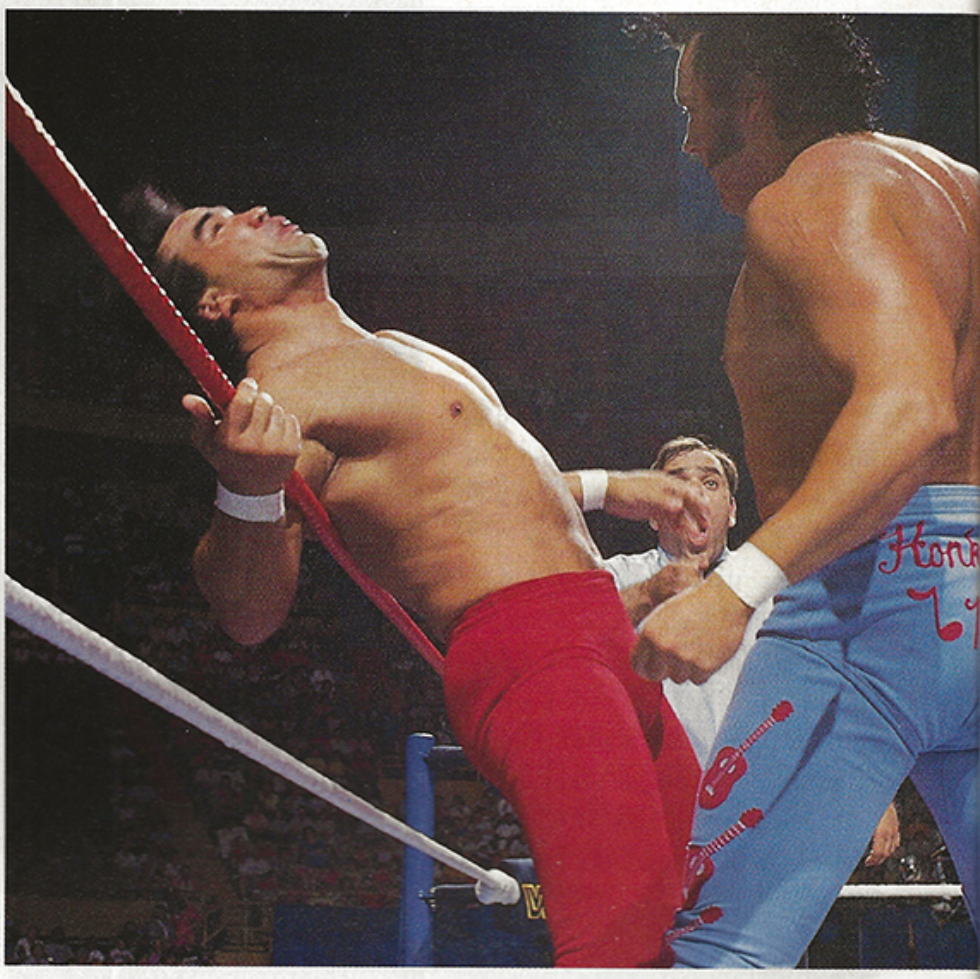
Within seconds of climbing back into the ring, Steamboat found himself ducking another sneak attack by Honky, this time flipping the challenger over the top rope and onto the floor. He then grabbed the Tennessee native and suplexed him back in, this time coming off the ropes with a hard chop to Honky's head. Forever mindful of the megaphone-touting manager on the outside, Ricky took a quick swipe toward the Mouth of the South, but just missed connecting by inches.

Turning his attention back to his opponent, Steamboat attempted to roll up Honky for the win, but he instead tasted the corner turnbuckle for his troubles. Seeing his chance to do some harmful damage to the Dragon, Honky Tonk went after the champion's weak spot—his throat. Just a few months earlier, Ricky had suffered a severe injury to his larynx at the hands of Randy Savage and he was still healing from it. Honky raked Steamboat's throat over the top rope, but when he attempted to elbowdrop the injured champion from the third turnbuckle, he hit nothing but mat.

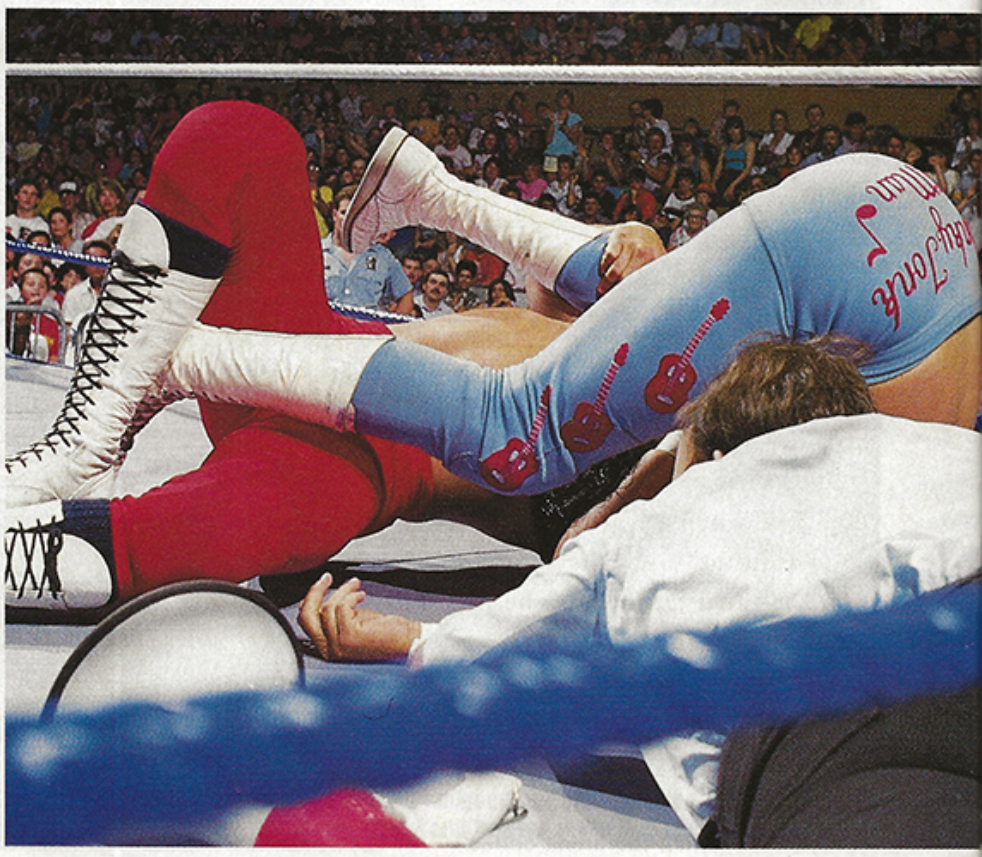
The Dragon battled back with chops to Honky's chest, but was soon doubled over in pain when the challenger kicked him in the stomach. In a moment in which the arena collec-







(ABOVE) Honky Tonk wisely goes to work on the Dragon's weak spot—a strategy that many felt enabled Honky to grab the gold. (ABOVE RIGHT) Steamboat holds onto the ropes for leverage after taking a thunderous right from Honky.

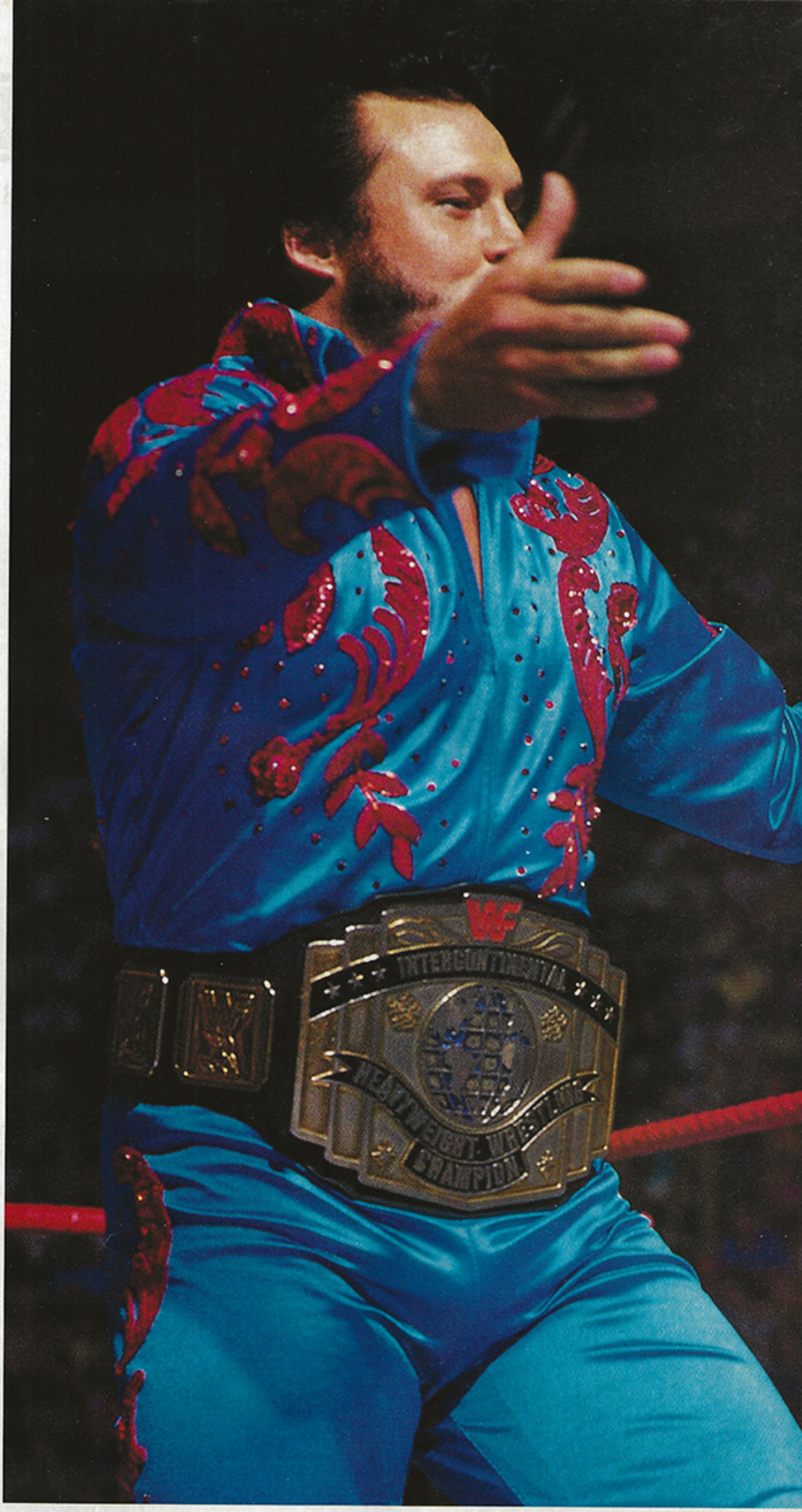


tively held its breath, Honky set up Steamboat for the "Shake, Rattle and Roll", the very move that brought Honky to the "big time". This move was considered "excessive" by some superstars in the Federation, and a massive campaign to outlaw Honky and his finishing move was already well underway. Over the challenger's shoulder, a fan held a giant banner that read "BAN THE HONKY TONK MAN!" That piece of cardboard couldn't help Steamboat, however, who was about to have his neck crushed by this lethal variation of the neckbreaker.

Amazingly, Steamboat somehow found the strength to lift Honky Tonk over his head to escape the hold. He then climbed to the top rope and delivered a massive axhandle to Honky's head that shook the ring when it connected. Had Jimmy Hart not climbed the ring apron in an attempt to distract the referee, there could have been a count to 50. Without hesitation, Steamboat got up and grabbed the manager by his cheap suit, knowing full well Honky was about to attack him from behind once he collected his bearings.

Just as Honky was about to attack the champion, Steamboat ducked once more and dropkicked his foe into Jimmy Hart. The manager went flying into the steel barrier on the outside, but Honky managed to keep his composure. The Dragon rolled him up with a small package, but things didn't work out quite the way that Steamboat had planned. As both men were so close to the apron, Honky Tonk simply held onto the bottom rope as Steamboat went for the pin. As a result, Ricky was the one who ended up flat on the mat, and Honky simply pressed his knees firmly on the Dragon's shoulders. After three strikes of the referee's hands, Howard Finkel announced the Honky Tonk Man as the new Intercontinental Champion.

(LEFT) The small package that cost Steamboat the Intercontinental gold. Honky cleverly held onto the ropes and used the Dragon's own move against him! (RIGHT) The self-proclaimed greatest Intercontinental Champion of all time.



BY BILL BANKS

Wildman Marc Mero vs. Flash Funk

What would happen if you had to fight a mirror image of yourself? Imagine stepping through the ropes and realizing your opponent has the same strengths and weaknesses you do. How would you defeat him... what moves could you dish out that he doesn't already know a counter to? The World Wrestling Federation got a taste of this in the Ironman match at *WrestleMania XII* when Bret "Hit Man" Hart and Shawn Michaels squared off. They were two men with such similar wrestling styles that it took over an hour for a winner to be declared!

Generations from now, that mat classic between Shawn and Bret will still be talked about. SO, why not give you ANOTHER first-class war? In this month's issue of *RAW Magazine*, we take a look at quite possibly the ultimate mirror image match of all... WILDMAN MARC MERO vs. FLASH FUNK.

WILDMAN MARC MERO

STRENGTHS:

One word: Dexterity. Since his introduction to the World Wrestling Federation at *WrestleMania XII*, it has been virtually impossible to find an ounce of fat anywhere on the Wildman's body. Along with Sable, he trains in the gym like a mad dog no matter how much time he is traveling on the road. Plus, sticking to a healthy diet doesn't hurt matters either! Also, Mero's aerial attack isn't something

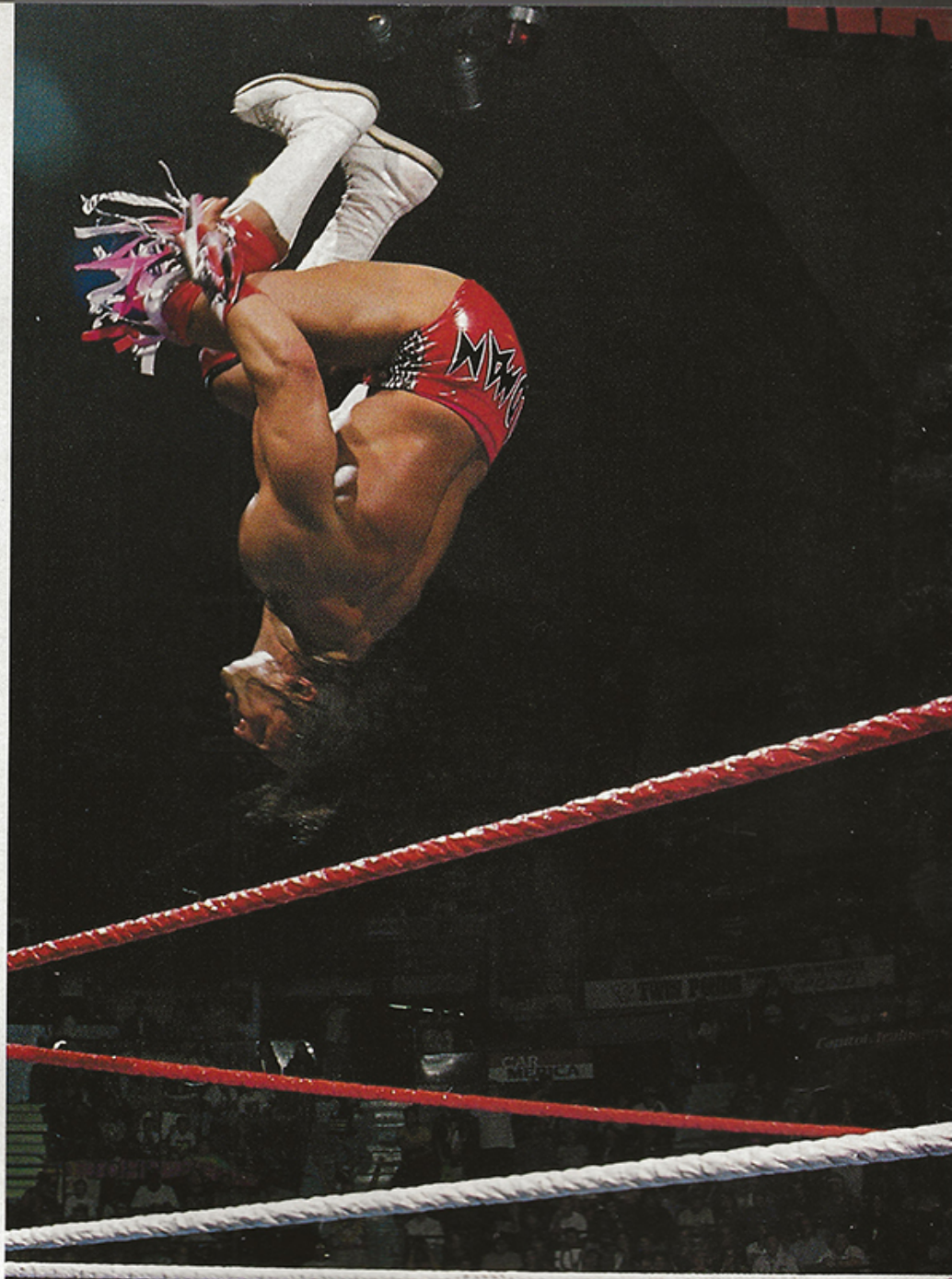
that opponents take lightly! Ever try to swat a fly that keeps annoying you? Impossible, right? Well, try to swat a 235-pound man who has both feet zeroed on your kisser!

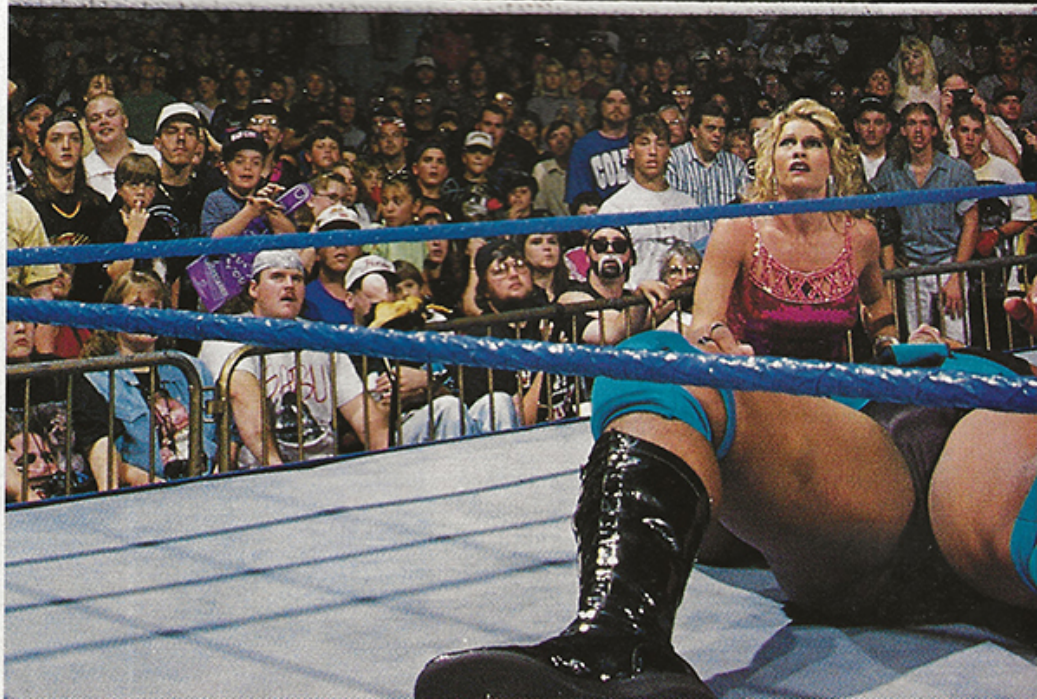
WEAKNESSES:

In my opinion, Sable has the potential to be the biggest weakness in the Wildman's matches. Sure, a lovely woman in your corner can grab the attention of your opponent, but what if the table is turned on YOU? If you can control the lovely Sable, then you might be able to control the Wildman! Also, one of Mero's biggest strengths may also be his greatest weakness! With all his kamikaze moves, what would happen to the Wildman if he were to miscalculate one of them? Like most kamikaze planes... he could very well tend to EXPLODE! In addition to that, Mero's temper gets him in hot water on occasion when he becomes frustrated!

KEY WINS:

Without question, the night Mero defeated Faarooq on *Monday Night RAW* in the final match of the Intercontinental Title tournament to grab the gold was perhaps his finest accomplishment. From the very beginning, all odds were stacked against the Wildman. Faarooq had the size, weight and strength advantage, but Mero dug deep inside himself and outlasted the Nation of Domination member. Pure resilience is what fuels Marc Mero!





(LEFT) The Wildman attempts to break Razor Ramon's limb with an armbar, (RIGHT) while he demonstrates why his Shooting Star Press is one of the most lethal finishing moves in the squared circle—BAR NONE!

KEY LOSSES:

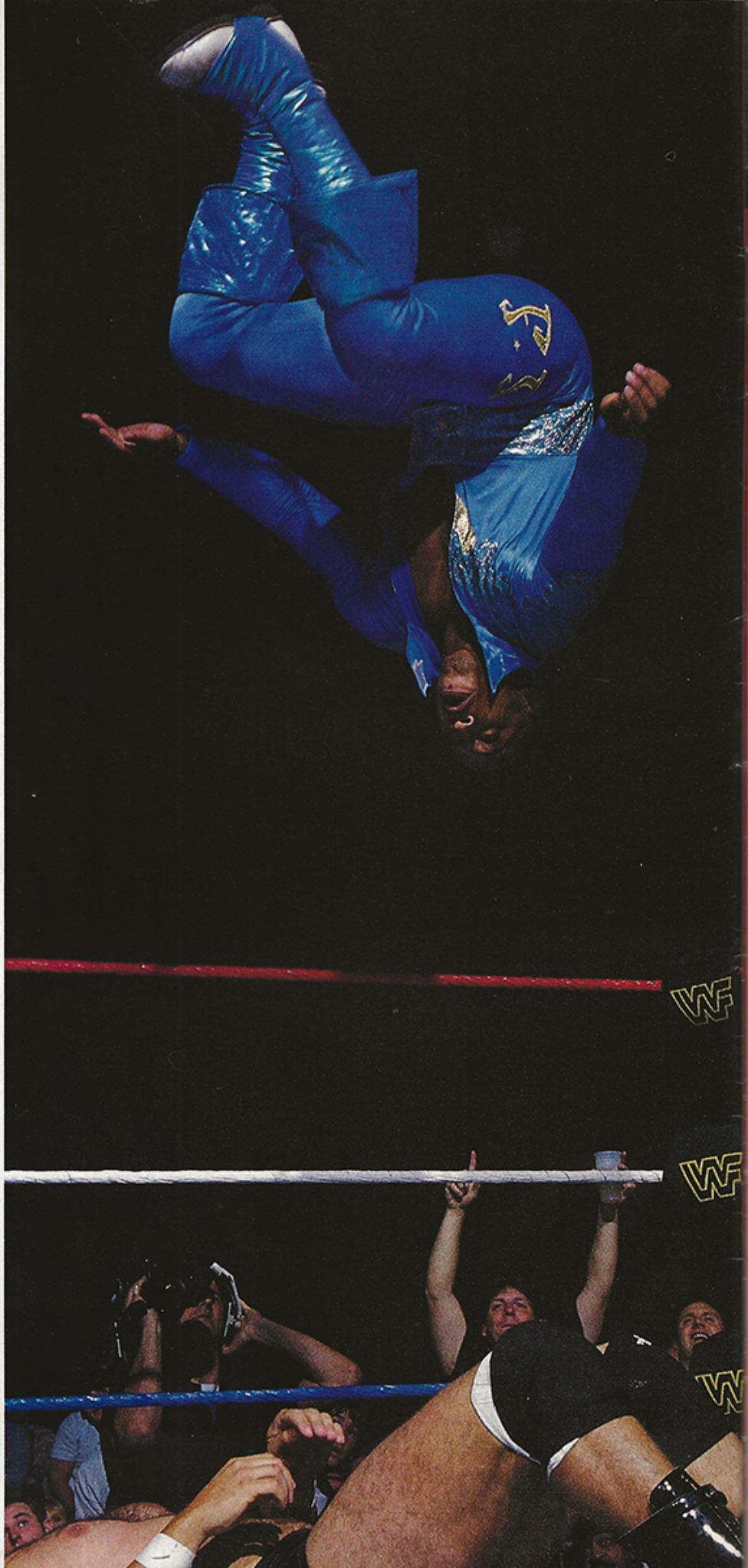
Three men have been a thorn in the Wildman's side throughout his Federation career—Goldust, Hunter Hearst-Helmsley and Stone Cold Steve Austin. Mero has tasted defeat from each, Austin at the *King of the Ring*, Goldust at *SummerSlam* and Helmsley for the Intercontinental belt. However, each time Mero has faced these men, it has always been a hellacious war. For proof of that, just take a look at the *King of the Ring* and the scar left on Stone Cold's lip, courtesy of the Wildman!

FINISHING MOVE:

Mero has experimented with a wide range of high-impact moves, and each has been successful for him in the end. First, Mero used the top-rope Sunset Flip. Then he invented the Wild Thing (a form of the Shooting Star Press). Now, however, Marc seems to enjoy a new form of the Moonsault to get the victory. However, if his high-impact moves fail him, Mero's fists can ultimately get the job done. Remember "Hands of Stone" Ronnie Garvin? Mero could easily give him a run for that title with his amateur boxing background!

STRATEGY:

Take to the air and stay there! The Wildman has succeeded where others have failed because of his athleticism. BUT when you face a man like Funk, who can throw that strategy right back in your face, it's going to be a LONG night! Like all his other matches, the Wildman will not only have to rely on his experience, but his conditioning to beat the lethal Funk.



Flash Funk gets ready to flatten another opponent with his kamikaze Moonsault, a move he learned from some of the best high-flyers in the world while touring Japan.

FLASH FUNK

STRENGTHS:

Fans of the Federation may not realize it yet, but Funk has an UNBELIEVABLE tolerance for pain! Prior to entering the World Wrestling Federation, Funk competed in the Philadelphia-based ECW, where it was a common practice to go "medieval" on your opponent's #$@! Talk about torture! Funk has experienced pots, pans, bats, garbage cans, tables, chairs and barbed wire across his cranium in the so-called "wrestling organization"! Maybe that is what makes him so FUNKY. So, in the long run, it doesn't matter if you make Flash scream, because that means he just may be enjoying it! Also, because of his time spent in Japan, Funk has put together an aggressive aerial attack, which he picked up from some of the best high-flyers in the game.

WEAKNESSES:

Whether or not he would want to admit it, the Funkster takes his high-flying moves to a very lethal extreme... sometimes TOO extreme! Granted, if he hits an opponent with a Moonsault or off the-top-rope Powerbomb, THE PARTY'S OVER, KIDS... but what if he were to miss? It is just as easy to break your own neck jumping 20 feet up in the air and hitting nothing but canvas on the way down.

KEY WINS:

In his VERY FIRST match at the 1996 *Survivor Series*, Funk stepped into the ring with four of the biggest monsters in the game and held his own. At one point, Flash actually Moonsaulted VADER from the top rope onto the concrete floor! Even though the match ended in a double-disqualification, Funk took the best that Faarooq, Diesel, Razor Ramon and Vader could dish out—and kept getting up for more!

KEY LOSSES:

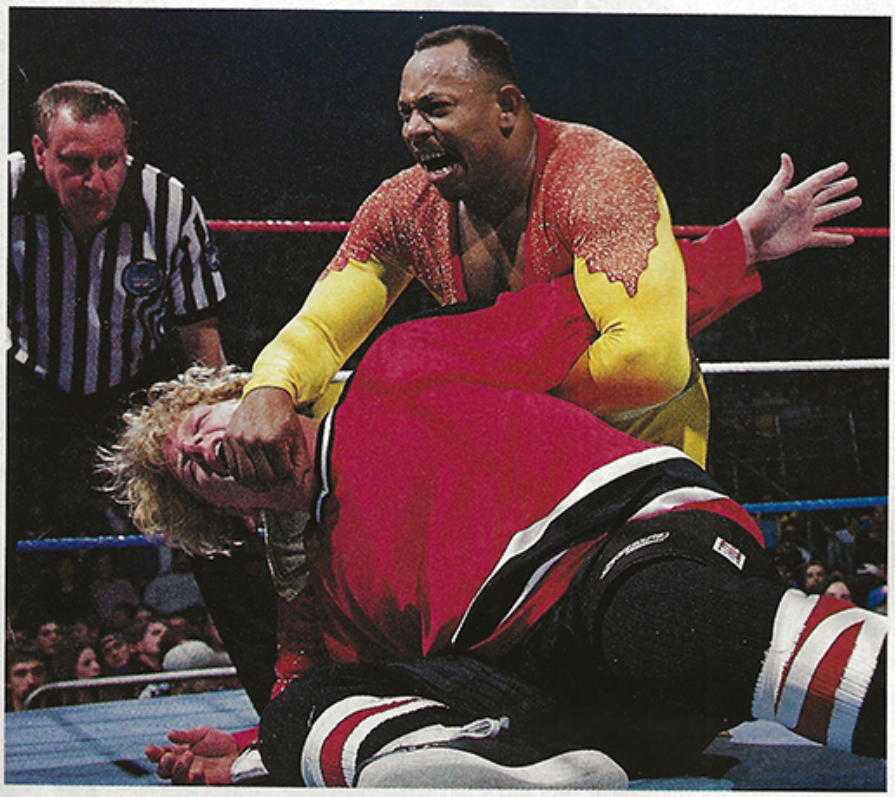
As of press time—NONE! That's a big goose egg in the Federation loss category, folks! However, Funk has yet to be thoroughly tested one-on-one against the likes of Shawn Michaels, Sycho Sid or Stone Cold Steve Austin. Could he take down the Federation's elite with his brand of high-impact moves? Right now, having been in the Federation for just a few short months, the odds are slim.

FINISHING MOVE:

As with the Wildman, Funk tends to experiment with a wide array of high-impact shots to end the match. So far, Funk has used a Moonsault, Powerbomb and moves only Jim Ross could name to bag the win. It's scary to think what kind of finishing moves Funk and the Wildman could come up with in a match!

STRATEGY:

Without a shadow of a doubt, Funk will be facing almost a mirror image of himself in the ring against the Wildman. To get an edge on Mero, Flash could have the Funkettes "deal" with Sable on the outside. This would ultimately keep the Wildman's mind outside of the match. HOWEVER, that alone isn't going to put the former Intercontinental Champion away! Funk has to launch as many high-impact moves as he can—AND HOPE HE DOESN'T MISS! In this writer's opinion, this match may be too close to call! ■



Much like Mero, Flash can alter his game plan in an effort to keep his opponents grounded on the canvas. Here, the Goon gets a taste of Funk's painful mat game.

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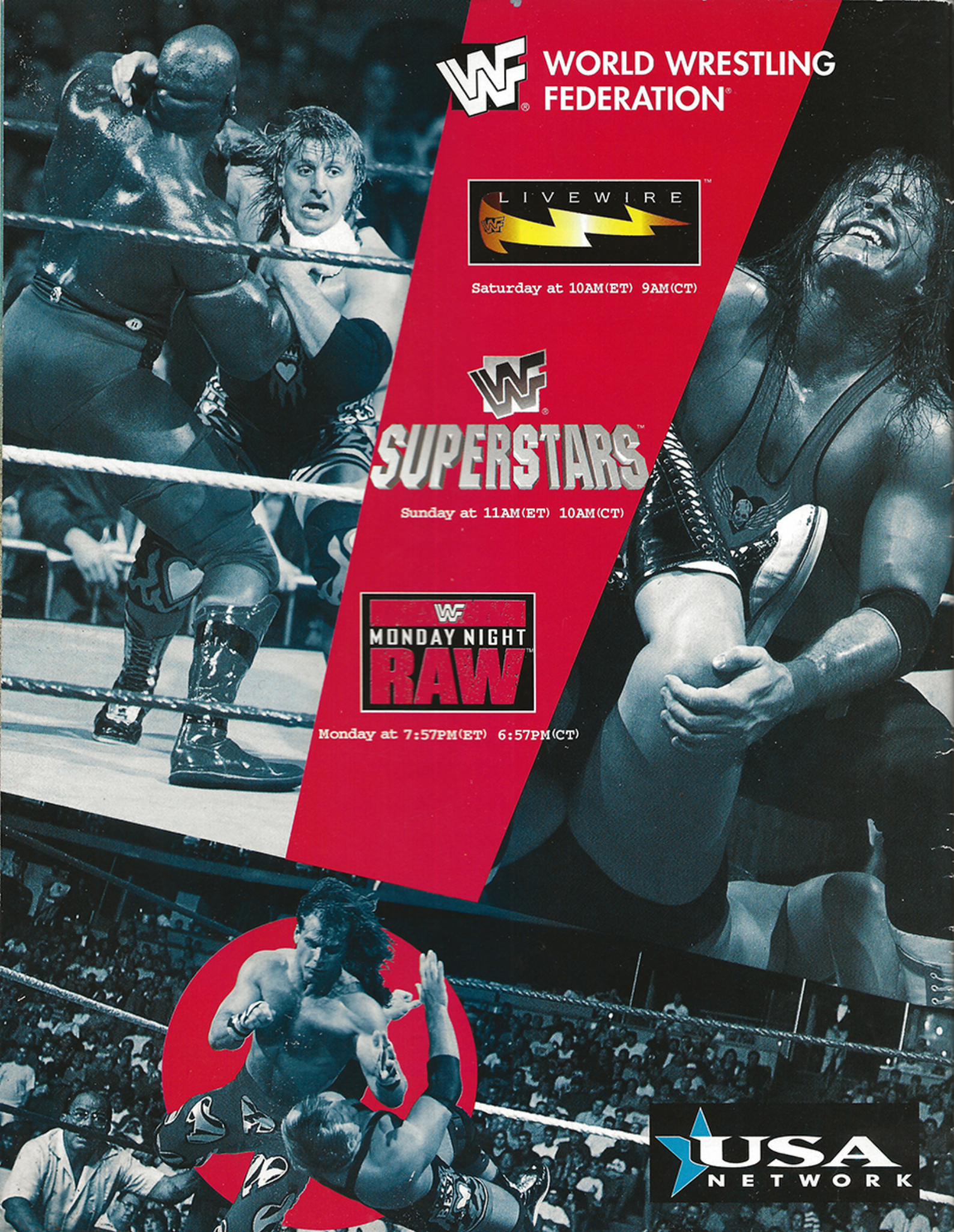
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